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Husband who shot wife released on bail. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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ERWIN ENCINARES
▲ Tourists flock to the CNMI tourist hotspot of The Grotto at noon yesterday.

Fees to be assessed on Grotto, Bird Island

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is starting discussions to place fees on protected marine sanctuaries, which include Bird Island, The Grotto, and Forbidden Island.

According to DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente, he told the House Ways and Means Committee chaired by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) that fees to be placed on the marine sanctuaries of the CNMI are currently being discussed.

This statement followed after the committee unanimously voted to kill Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-46, which sought to authorize the Division of Parks and Recreation of DLNR to charge fees for The Grotto with consultation of the Division

See FEES on Page 4

ON CONSTRUCTION WORKER BAN UNDER HR 339

Torres: It's not what I supported

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said yesterday that the intent of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) House Resolution 339 and the repercussions of it after being enacted into law was something that he did not support.

Torres

Members of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. said in a statement last Monday that their trip to Washington, D.C. to discuss the fate of the CW-1 Program unearthed that United States Citizenship and Immigration Services has been denying CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program applications for occupations such as general maintenance, gardeners, handymen, and other technical jobs due to it falling under the construction worker category.

After asking for comments, Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that H.R. 339's effect to the CNMI was ultimately detrimental to the economy.

"…My support [on the bill] originally is not what has trans-

See TORRES on Page 4

NMI visitor arrivals up 2 pct. in November

Visitor arrivals to The Marianas increased 2 percent in November 2017 compared to November 2016. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 48,039 visitors in November 2017, compared to 47,261 visitors received in November 2016.

Arrivals from Korea remained essentially flat at minus 2 percent to 24,388 visitors, yet retained its

See NMI on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
An Amtrak train making the first-ever run along a faster new route hurtled off an overpass south of Seattle on Monday.

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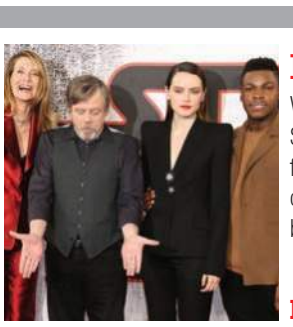

LIFE & STYLE
With glowing reviews from critics and $450.8 million of worldwide box office in the first three days of release of "The Last Jedi," all would seem to be right in the "Star Wars" universe.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

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Local

Satur is new CLI-CNMI executive director

The CNMI Center for Living Independently has hired a new executive director.

For nearly 17 years since the CLI-CNMI program was established on Saipan, the program's executive director has always been Lydia Igitol.

Satur

Recently Igitol gave up her spot as the program's executive director and former educator Susan Satur filled the position last Nov. 20.

"This is a new job for me and it's quite challenging," she said.

Since getting on board with the CLI-CNMI program, Satur said there have been about 20 consistent consumers in the program and many others who come once in a while.

Yesterday during the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting, Satur was chosen as the guest speaker and shared her future plans for the center.

According to her, the center is not as popular as it should be and as executive director, she is working on further educating the community about the center and what they do.

"We need to educate the community as well. Not a lot of people know what goes on in House 1366 but we're going to make it happen," she said.

Satur is in the works of starting a consumable garden at the center where consumers can plant and harvest crops that the center can use to train consumers to cook.

Satur has also written up a proposal to get a van for the center that will be used to teach consumers how to go out and shop for themselves.

The program is dedicated to helping people with disabilities fend for themselves and train them to accomplish basic everyday tasks without the help of others.

"We teach our consumers to be living independently or have the skills they need to live independently or live within a family community and be able to be a part of it by helping out," said Satur.

The center takes in people with any kind of disabilities, ages 14 and older, and who are willing to take on the challenge of becoming independent despite the setback of their disability.

Each registered individual creates a customized degree plan and from that plan, the center works to help their consumers accomplish their goals.

Although the center is accepting any individual that may have a disability, the center's assistance is limited to how severe the disability may be.

The center is located on Capitol Hill, House 1366 and it is open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Everyone is welcome to register and it is free of charge.

Satur said the goal is to get as many consumers in as possible and to help as many individuals as they can. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

Happy Holidays from Aqua Resort Club!
December 22-25, 2017
6:00PM - 10:00PM
Set Menu A
Pan Seared Sea Scallops on Saffron Cream with a Duo of Black and Pink Caviar Bouquet of Edible Wild Flowers
Butternut Squash with Bradley Smoked Duck and laced with Black-Truffle Sunflower Oil
Strawberry and Baby Spinach in a Parmesan cup, with Roquefort Cheese, Roasted Pecans, and Creamy Balsamic Dressing
Pomegranate Grey Goose Granita Amusee
Garlic-Herb Crusted Roast Black Mountain Prime Rib with Chestnut-Mushroom Au Jus Haricot Vert and Pearl Onion Amandine Mousseline Potatoes
Key Lime Pie with Triple Berry Coulis
Set Menu B
Pan Seared Sea Scallops on Saffron Cream with a Duo of Black and Pink Caviar Bouquet of Edible Wild Flowers
Butternut Squash with Bradley Smoked Duck and laced with Black-Truffle Sunflower Oil
Strawberry and Baby Spinach in a Parmesan cup, with Roquefort Cheese, Roasted Pecans, and Creamy Balsamic Dressing
Pomegranate Grey Goose Granita Amusee
Fillet of Aurora Salmon on Grilled Pineapple with Avocado Tapenade Haricot Vert and Pearl Onion Amandine Mousseline Potatoes
Key Lime Pie with Triple Berry Coulis
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Husband who shot wife released on bail

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The man who shot his wife with a rifle last weekend has been released after posting bail last Monday in Superior Court.

Norberto Blas Camacho was released after posting bail during a bail hearing last Monday, Dec. 18, at 9am. Assistant attorney general Robert Lee represented the government in the case.

Camacho

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set the preliminary hearing on Dec. 27 at 9am. Camacho has been charged with attempted first degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

A $500,000 cash bail was originally set for Camacho's release.

Police detective Vuddy S. Igitol said there is probable cause to believe that last Saturday night, Dec. 16, at 11:23pm, Camacho committed attempted first degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The crimes were committed at the suspect's residence in Kagman.

The Department of Public Safety said police officers Edward Cepeda and Eric Flores responded to a report of a shooting at approximately 11:28pm last Saturday.

While driving to the scene, the officers noticed a shirtless man, standing under a street light along Anonas Drive with a rifle seemingly pointed in their direction.

An off-duty officer, Olympio Muňa, informed Cepeda and Flores the victim was locked inside a residence with a gunshot wound to the leg.

The victim, later identified as Camacho's wife, Maryann Demapan Camacho, said the couple had been arguing since Dec. 14, and matters escalated after having another argument earlier that evening. Witnesses say they heard at least four gunshots as well as a woman yelling for help, before members inside the home led her to safety. Paramedics transported the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment at 12:03am, Sunday.

Maryann is now in stable condition.

The gun, later identified as a .410 caliber shotgun, was later procured by crime scene technician Leopoldo Duenas Jr.

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Okeanos Marianas expected to return to Saipan today

The *Okeanos Marianas* is currently on its way to the CNMI after a nine-day long journey from the annual Yap Canoe Festival.

Last Dec. 7 and 9, Yap hosted the 8th Annual Canoe Festival where the *Okeanos Marianas* represented the Commonwealth for the first time.

The *Okeanos Marianas* is scheduled to arrive at the Smiling Cove Marina today at noon, canoe standard time.

According to the *Okeanos Marianas'* Facebook page, as of 6:24pm on Monday, the *Okeanos Marianas* was located at N14'01. 355 E 143'590. 51.

It was reported that the winds were rough, the seas were choppy, and the crew experienced constant rain.

Please check the *Okeanos Marianas* facebook page for any updates or for more information, feel free to call Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport LTD managing director Emma Perez at 670-285-4268. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Guam releases 2 videos on emergency procedures

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam security officials have released two videos advising residents on preparing for emergencies and what to do if they hear sirens.

The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense said in a statement Tuesday the preparedness videos aren't connected to any imminent threat, but are part of an initiative to promote routine activities.

The first video instructs residents to build a kit with emergency supplies and to make an evacuation plan.

The second video describes what to do if residents hear an alert tone, which is steady, versus an attack tone. When residents hear the attack tone, they are advised to take shelter in the closest concrete structure and wait until the all-clear is given, which could be hours later.

Guam is a U.S. territory in the Pacific Ocean.

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Kagman Store (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) – 9:00AM to 6:00PM
Tinian / Rota Office (Monday to Friday) – 8:00AM to 4:30PM

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Fiesta Resort sponsors 2 families for the holidays

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sponsored two families to join their church's Christmas party for the first time.

To spread Christmas cheer, the hotel decided to sponsor the entrance fee of the Sansi and Minto families so they could celebrate Christmas with their church mates.

According to Victory Chapel church leader Ed Sikayun, Victory Chapel has been hosting their Christmas party at Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall for a couple of years now and the hotel has always been generous when it comes to assisting them.

Sikayun said that after speaking with Das Krishnan, Fiesta Resort's F&B director, about the event, he brought to Krishnan's attention that there are two families in the church who want to take part in the church's festivities but cannot afford the individual entrance fee of $28 per person because they are such big families.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

The Sansi family poses for a picture during Victory Chapel church Christmas party yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

After the conversation, Sikayun was informed that Fiesta Resort was willing to sponsor the two families for the church's Christmas party.

According to Anson Sansi, he has been a part of the church for years and he was never able to bring his family to the church Christmas party because of the entrance fee.

Sansi said that he knows the importance of the service and has always been saddened that he could never bring his family.

When Sansi heard that Fiesta Resort was sponsoring his family's entrance fee, he said he felt happy and he is just thankful for the blessing his family received thanks to Fiesta Resort.

Sansi and his wife, Arina, have six children and their names are Anica Sansi, Bianca Sansi, Dion Sansi, Donica Sansi, Gift Sansi, and Angelica Sansi.

The second family sponsored by the Fiesta Resort was the Minto family. Minto Minto and his wife Trina have five children and their names are Shubon, Shumon, Shukkon, Shurrab, and Shuborna.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

The Minto family poses for a picture during Victory Chapel church Christmas party yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Military to conduct training at W-17, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) during the following dates and times:

- Dec. 20 from 9:30am to 9:30pm
- Dec. 21 from 7:30am to 5pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Dec. 20 from 9:30am to 9:30pm
- Dec. 21 from 7:30am to 5pm

It is recommended the general public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10"N/144° 30"E, 13° 10"N/144° 42"E, 12° 50"N/144° 45"E, 11° 00"N/144° 45"E, 11° 00"N/143° 00"E, 11° 45"N/143° 00"E, 12° 50"N/144° 30"E.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. Farallon de Medinilla, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, supports aircrew combat readiness training.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. ***(PR)***

NMI

From Page 1

position as the top performing source market. Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, Jin Air and T'way Air provide Incheon-Saipan flight services. T'way Air increased to daily ICN-SPN services beginning on Dec. 7, 2017, while Jeju Air added daily Busan-Saipan flight services beginning on Dec. 15, 2017, adding a combined 49,140 seats to The Marianas annually.

Arrivals from China grew 9 percent compared to November 2016 to 16,168 visitors. Mass direct consumer promotion in China during November was led by the well-attended China International Travel Mart trade show with six key partners: Dynasty Holiday, Century Tours, Shenzhen Professional Int'l Travel Service, Meili Saipan, Zhejiang New World Travel Agency and Top Development, Inc. In addition, a number of road shows were completed including an industry seminar in Kunming, road show with Century Tours in Datong, road show with Tuniu.com in Shenzhen, and a road show with Dynasty Holiday in Hangzhou and Jiaxing.

Arrivals from Japan were 4 percent lower than November 2016 at 4,493 visitors. Delta Air Lines began using larger aircraft on its daily flight from Tokyo-Narita on Nov. 5, adding an additional 24 Comfort+ seats per flight. There was also a 400-passenger MICE group arriving on two JAL charter flights. Delta implemented three ad hoc cancellations on Nov. 24, 27, and 28, due to yield management factors, compared to only one ad hoc cancellation in November 2016. Heightened concerns over the North Korea missile threat also forced the cancellation of one anticipated school trip.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tourists take souvenir photos on top of Mt. Tapochao. The Marianas Visitors Authority said arrivals to the CNMI increased 2 percent in November 2017 compared to November 2016.

Source markets economic highlights

South Korea's finance minister said the nation could achieve the growth target of 3 percent is there was no sudden economic volatility in the fourth quarter. The average USD/WON exchange rate in November was 1,107.12 won, a slight decrease from the previous rate of 1,128.61 won in October.

In China, the Consumer Price Index of October 2017 saw an overall increase of 1.9 percent year on year. In December, the China Outbound Tourism Index is estimated to be 105.1, with an increase of 3.5 percent compared to the same time period in 2016.

In Japan, strong global growth continued to propel economic activity in Q3, leading the economy to expand for the seventh consecutive quarter and marking the longest stretch of growth in more than 15 years. Monthly average rate for USD/YEN exchange in November 2017 was 112.86, compared to 112.89 in October 2017. ***(PR)***

TORRES

From Page 1

pired and it is not what I supported; the outcome of [H.R. 339's enactment] is devastating everybody here on the island and I am very concerned because those good folks that have been here on the island as construction workers, maintenance workers, gardeners—all fall under the category of construction workers," Torres said in an interview during the opening of the new police substation in San Roque yesterday.

H.R. 339, among other things, has a provision that bars construction workers from utilizing the CW-1 program to work in the CNMI.

USCIS, according to NMBAC, considers occupations that deal with "general repairs" to fall under the U.S. Department of Labor's overall construction category, which was used in H.R. 339.

"[Sablan's] bill, H.R. 339, is going to devastate not just the CNMI, but even people's lives…every plumber, gardener, anybody under the maintenance category would be removed because of H.R. 339–which allowed the definition of construction to be extended also for the CW-1 program [and] was [also] not my [intention] for supporting the bill," said Torres.

Saipan Tribune attempted to reach out to Sablan, but failed due to the fact that according to the delegate's deputy communications director Tina Sablan, the delegate was travelling.

Torres said his office would be "writing some letters" to communicate his concerns with Sablan.

"…We will continue to keep moving forward. I am here to support the NMBAC and our efforts to continue fighting for the workforce of the CNMI because what has transpired is absolutely unacceptable for our economy to continue to grow," he said.

FEES

From Page 1

of Fish and Wildlife.

According to Guerrero, DLNR, Marianas Visitors Authority, and "other respective agencies" are discussing the fees to be charged.

"It was recommended that we [impose] a fee at a higher threshold so we could use the money to enhance the facilities of The Grotto and even the security [of the area] as well," he said, adding that it was also worth taking note of how many visitors visited the sites as well as utilize the area for marine recreation.

During discussions on H.B. 20-46, it was found out that Section 4 of CNMI Public Law 12-46, or the law that designates Bird Island and Forbidden Island as "sanctuaries for the conservation of wildlife and marine life," provides that DFW already has the authority to charge an entry fee for the purpose of maintenance, enforcement, research, and improvement of the sanctuaries.

"[P.L. 12-46] has been sitting there for a number of years; there was no intent of moving forward with the implementation [of the fees] until [H.B. 20-46] was introduced," said author Guerrero, who moved to file the bill in the committee due to redundancy.

Guerrero said once DLNR finishes the regulation, Benavente would be providing the Legislature a copy of the regulation for review and their inputs.

"Once we see that regulation, we would determine how much the fees are proposed to be collected [at the sites]," he said.

According to Benavente, DLNR already has an account established with the Department of Finance for the collection of fees.

"The account is readily available for the implementation of the fees, however DFW director Manny Pangelinan is currently working on the regulations for the fees," he said in a statement to the Ways and Means Committee.

Benavente assured the members that the fees would only be imposed on tourists, while CNMI residents enter the area free of charge after chair Demapan asked.

Benavente said the DFW and Parks & Rec are currently ruling out the division of the proposed entrance fees.

McDonnell extradition postponed

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Camacho

McDonnell

The extradition of a man who was arrested on Saipan last October for sexually assaulting a child in Illinois has been postponed.

Sean McDonnell's extradition was originally set for last Monday, Dec. 18.

Saipan Tribune contacted chief prosecutor Michelle Harris, but she did not respond as of press time.

Saipan Tribune also contacted assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, counsel for McDonnell, on the non-execution of the extradition dated Dec. 18.

She said they have no statement to media at this point.

At the status conference presided over by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last Friday, chief prosecutor Michelle Harris and assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid informed the court that a company called Inmate Services will be arriving on Saipan, Dec. 18, to bring McDonnell back to Illinois.

Although the Dec. 18 scheduled extradition did not push through, McDonnell was given 45 days to be extradited from the CNMI to the state of Illinois starting Dec. 15, 2017.

Last Friday, assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilbersheid said that executing an extradition procedure in the CNMI is complicated because of the unavailability of flights.

But Wilbersheid assured the court that the extradition process will be executed appropriately.

Camacho stated in his order that in the event that McDonnel is not brought back to Illinios within 45 days, the court will hear arguments from the counsels of McDonnell whether or not he should be released from the Department of Corrections.

A status conference is set on Jan. 29, 2018 at 9am and Camacho ordered all parties to appear and if McDonnell has been extradited, the status conference shall be vacated.

McDonell was arrested through a joint effort between the U.S. Marshals and the Department of Public Safety, led by police sergeant George F. David, on Saipan last October.

McDonnell is wanted in the county of Rock Island in Illinois, on multiple charges of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.

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Est. Mileage: 106,402
Color: SILVER
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2012 NISSAN VERSA SV
Stk# CL800094
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 LTR 4CYL
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26750
Color: SILVER
$11,995

2012 KIA SEDONA LX
Stk# C6507846
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter DOHC
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 45060
Color: GRAY
$11,995

2013 NISSAN MAXIMA SV
Stk# DC843965
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 LITER
Transmission: Automatic CVT
Est. Mileage: 35550
Color: BLACK
$18,995

2016 KIA SPORTAGE LX
Stk# G7855268
Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 6677
Color: Silver
$19,795

2014 FORD ESCAPE SE
Stk#EUB67717
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 Liter Ecoboost
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 12644
Color: Ruby Red
$19,995

2015 NISSAN QUEST S
Stk# F9123375
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5L V6 DOHC
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 18425
Color: White
$20,995

2015 NISSAN QUEST S
Stk# F9126212
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 17320
Color: White
$20,995

2015 NISSAN ALTIMA S
Stk# FC469947
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.5 L
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26
Color: WHITE
$20,995

2016 KIA SPORTAGE EX
Stk# G7840712
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 19778
Color: Black
$21,795

2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX
Stk# H71962822
Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 3787
Color: Clear White
$22,995

2013 NISSAN MAXIMA SV SPORT
Stk# DC816012
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 20568
Color: Brilliant Silver
$24,995

2015 NISSAN FRONTIER SV
Stock#: Fn700804
Drivetrain: 4wd
Engine: 4. 0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Mileage: 25000
Color: Gun Metallic
$26,995

2017 KIA SPORTAGE SX TURBO
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Engine: 2.0 LITER
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 12699
Color: BLUE
$28,995

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Engine: 5.0 Liter V8
Transmission: Automatic
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Make-A-Wish sends off a wish child

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Make-A-Wish Guam and NMI Chapter sent off a wish child to fulfill her lifelong dream of visiting Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Board members of the nonprofit group hosted a small send-off party at the Summer Snow Café yesterday for wish child Kei'ani Hofschneider.

According to the chapter's board member Kanae Quinn, Hofschneider is about the 10th or 11th child who was granted a wish in 2017 for both Guam and the NMI.

Hofschneider will be leaving for Disney World with her mother, sister, and her cousins on Friday where she will also meet with her father for the holidays.

The chapter's board member, Eleanor Cabrera, said the organization would spend approximately $7,500 on Hofschneider's trip all together.

According to Hofschneider, she is beyond excited to finally have her wish granted of bringing her loved ones with her to Disney World.

Hofschneider said she is thankful that she was given an opportunity like this by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Hofschneder's mother, Sirena Santos, said she felt blessed that despite her daughter's condition, there are foundations like Make-A-Wish that gives children liker her daughter these kinds of opportunities.

"It reminds her that there are great things out there in life on the hard days that she has to deal with," said Santos.

Hofschneider is 8 years old and has been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes mellitus.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Make-A-Wish Guam and NMI Chapter hosted a send off party for wish child Kei'ani Hofschneider, third from the left, last Monday at the Summer Snow Cafe located in Susupe.

Hell of the Marianas awareness grows in Korea

CONTRBUTED PHOTO

Cyclists with the South Korean amateur extreme sports team NOEXCUSE prepare to commence the Hell of The Marianas century cycle on Dec. 2, 2017, in Saipan.

The Marianas Visitors Authority continues to increase public awareness in South Korea of the annual Hell of The Marianas century cycle with this year's successfully recruitment of 24 Korean participants and a press FAM tour to cover the event.

The 2017 Hell of The Marianas attracted 181 registrants from 11 countries. Seventeen of the participating Korean athletes were attached to leading amateur extreme sports team NOEXCUSE. With leader Kyung-sang Kwon, the participating members experienced Micronesia's most challenging 100K cycling course, highlighted by the untapped natural beauty of Saipan at its most distinguished attractions, including Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, and Banzai Cliff. All 24 Korean participants finished the race safely and successfully.

"Definitely, it was one of the most challenging, yet enjoyable, cycling events," said Kwon through a translator, following the race. "Although the courses were really tough, the beautiful nature gave me much relaxation and happiness that I occasionally forgot about physically draining moments."

He added that event operations went smoothly and put the cyclists' minds at ease. After the race, NOEXCUSE members snorkeled at award-winning Managaha.

Meanwhile, six editors and photographers from four Korean publications conducted in-depth reports on the event. The media covered the entire cycling course and conducted interviews with Kwon and Hyo-suk Gong, NOEXCUSE's advisor and a former member of South Korea's national cycling team. Under several themes, including "Men's Paradise: Saipan," "Explore the Most Exciting Travel Destination, Saipan," and "Face the Challenge, Hell of The Marianas," the media will highlight and provide details of the race. After the event, the media visited major tourist attractions including Micro Beach, Mt. Tapochao, Ladder Beach, and the Korean Peace Memorial, while also experiencing an ATV tour and a dinner show at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

The media also visited Tinian over two days, emphasizing the island as the best place for snorkeling and swimming, while also raising awareness of Tinian as a historically and culturally significant destination. The group toured the Blow Hole, Taga Beach, Tachogna Beach, Broadway, and House of Taga. Also, they visited North Field Runway Able at for night sky and star photography.

"Overall, the Hell of The Marianas participants from Korea expressed great satisfaction on the cycling event along and the beautiful nature of The Marianas. They all said they would like to participate in next year's Hell of The Marianas, again," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The media also loved Saipan and Tinian, which is another key goal successfully achieved by the MVA in holding and promoting this annual signature event."

Media coverage is scheduled to be issued on January or February 2018 editions. The tour was also supported by Mariana Resort & Spa, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and Tinian Ocean View Hotel. ***(PR)***

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of: M.G.N.B. Minor Child	FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO 17-0501
By: William R. Sablan and Nadine B. Sablan Petitioner(s)	NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for hearing on January 22, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 11th day of December, 2017.

Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR FINANCIAL AUDIT

Karidat Social Services is soliciting competitive sealed proposals to perform a financial and compliance audit on its records for fiscal years September 30, 2017, 2018, and 2019. The proposal must be submitted to Karidat's office at VS Sablan Building or mailed to Karidat Social Services; P.O. Box 500745, Saipan, MP 96950 by January 30, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

I. **Contents of Proposal:** the following information must be included in the Audit Proposal:
   - A. Title Page Containing
     1. RFP Subject
     2. Name of the Firm
     3. Local Address
     4. Telephone Number (s)
     5. Email address
     6. Name of contact person
     7. Submission date

II. **Transmittal Letter:**
   - A. A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform work within the time period stipulated.
   - B. State all inclusive fees for which the audit will be performed.

III. **Firm Profile:**
Provide a brief description of your firm's personnel education background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and listing of clients serviced. The firm must make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are Certified Public Accountants (CPA's).

IV. **Proposal Evaluation Criteria:** The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria.
   - A. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating understanding of the work to be performed.
     1. Audit coverage
     2. Overall estimates as well as the time estimates for each major section of the work to be performed.
   - B. Qualifications and experience of the firm
     1. Size and structure of the firm.
     2. Ability to maintain continuity of project.
     3. Experience of the firm in auditing Federal Financial Assistance programs and Non-Profit Organizations.
   - C. Qualifications and experience of staff to be assigned: education, position in the firm, number of years, and types of experience will be considered.
     1. Qualifications of the audit team.
     2. Supervision to be exercised over the firm's audit team.
   - D. Audit Fee

V. **Audit Administration Matters:**
   - A. Karidat staff will prepare schedule as required by the Auditor.
   - B. Audit Planning meetings, interim conferences and exit conference may be attended by the following officials.
     1. Karidat's Board of Directors, the Executive Director, Accountants, and the Administrative Officer.
   - C. Karidat will issue the Contract Award on February 15, 2018.
   - D. The audit field work must be completed by April 15, 2018.
   - E. The draft audit report must be completed by May, 2018.
   - F. The Final Audit Report will be transmitted on June 01, 2018.

VI. **Confidentiality of Audit Proposals:** all audit proposals will be reviewed in a confidential manner. Proposals must be labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and transmitted to the Executive Director, Karidat Social Services, P.O. Box 500745, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be hand delivered to Karidat's Office located at VS Sablan Building, Chalan Piao.

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: **November 22, 2017** Closing Date: **December 22, 2017**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") needs immediate recruitment for the following positions:

	POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
1.	**FINANCIAL AUDITOR**	Audit	$37,000 - $42,000	CCC-2017-**A**
2.	**COMPLIANCE AGENT**	Compliance	$32,000 - $37,000	CCC-2017-**B**
3.	**DEPUTY MANAGER**	Enforcement & Investigations	$44,000 - $49,000	CCC-2017-**C**
4.	**INVESTIGATIVE ANALYST**	Enforcement & Investigations	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2017-**D**
5.	**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER** – Procurement	Executive Office	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2017-**E**
6.	**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**	Executive Office	$29,000 - $34,000	CCC-2017-**F**
7.	**PERMIT & LICENSING CLERK**	Permit & Licensing	$15,800 - $19,800	CCC-2017-**G**

- **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- **Exempted Positions:** These positions are exempted from the CNMI Civil Service system per P.L. 18-56 & P.L.19-24.

Requirements:

A. Completed CNMI Government **Application for Employment** (OPM-03) - Original
B. Resume with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations
C. Police Clearance (within the last 3 months)
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of **Valid Identification with photo**

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Office of Personnel Management **Application for Employment** must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations if deemed necessary.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the **POSITION DESCRIPTION** and other requirements, please contact the HR Officer, Ms. Juanette LG. Sablan at 233-1857/58 or at **info@cnmicasinocommission.com.** Interested persons should submit their completed Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the **Commonwealth Casino Commission's Office at Springs Plaza (Unit #13 & #14), Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.**

Interior provides $6.3M for water infrastructure in FSM

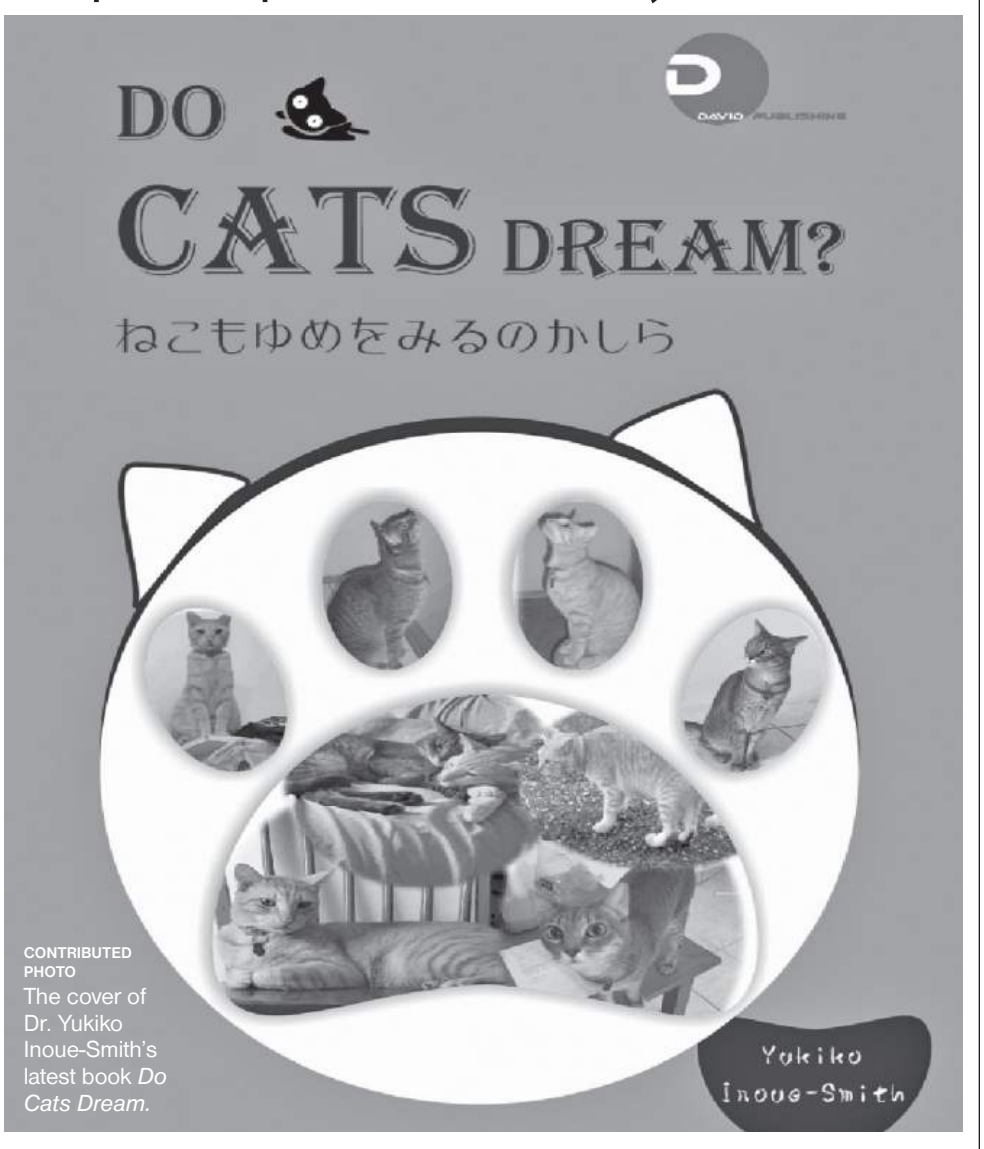
WASHINGTON—U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech provided a $6.3 million Compact of Free Association grant to support the Federated States of Micronesia's (FSM) Sekere Water Project on the island of Pohnpei. Funding for this project will assist the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation in expanding its island-wide water distribution system and connecting to water wells drilled by the United States Navy in 2007 under a Compact-funded humanitarian assistance project.

"Infrastructure projects such as the Sekere Water Project align with the goals of the Compact of Free Association to help increase the FSM's self-reliance," said Assistant Secretary Domenech. "I look forward to supporting the FSM as it continues to develop its infrastructure management program and begins to take full advantage of infrastructure assistance provided through the Compact."

Now in phase two of this project, the overall scope involves the installation of 5 miles of 8-inch water pipeline, significantly increasing the delivery of potable water service to approximately 3,500 people in multiple communities on the island. The project will be implemented by Pohnpei State Government through its Project Management Office with construction undertaken by Adams Brothers Corporation, a Pohnpei-based construction firm. The project is expected to be completed in mid-2019 and will extend the water distribution system from Sekere in Sokehs to the Lehn Diadi River in Kitti.

The Assistant Secretary of the Interior, on behalf of the Secretary, is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided under the Compacts of Free Association to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The Office of Insular Affairs promotes policies and distributes grants under the direction of the Assistant Secretary who strives to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas. ***(PR)***

UOG professor publishes American-style cat tanka book



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The cover of Dr. Yukiko Inoue-Smith's latest book *Do Cats Dream.*

Dr. Yukiko Inoue-Smith, a professor of Educational Psychology and Research at the University of Guam School of Education, announces the release of her new book, *Do Cats Dream*, to be published by David Publishing on the day of her cats' birthday, Feb. 23, 2018. The book, written in a classic Japanese poetry form called tanka.

"My husband and I love cats very much," said Inoue-Smith, "and so, I realize that it is time for me to tell the full story of our two cats, Goblin and Pumpkin Junior (P. J.), so that people can understand why we are so attached to these cats and deeply care about them."

Inoue-Smith

Inoue-Smith is a professor of education at the University of Guam, where she teaches educational psychology. Books in the specialized field include *Cases on Blended* and *Online Learning Technologies* and *Online Education for Lifelong Learning*. Tanka books recently published include: *Was It All A Dream?*, *Cat Tanka, Vol. 1*, and *Cat Tanka, Vol. 2: The Story of Goblin and Pumpkin Junior.* ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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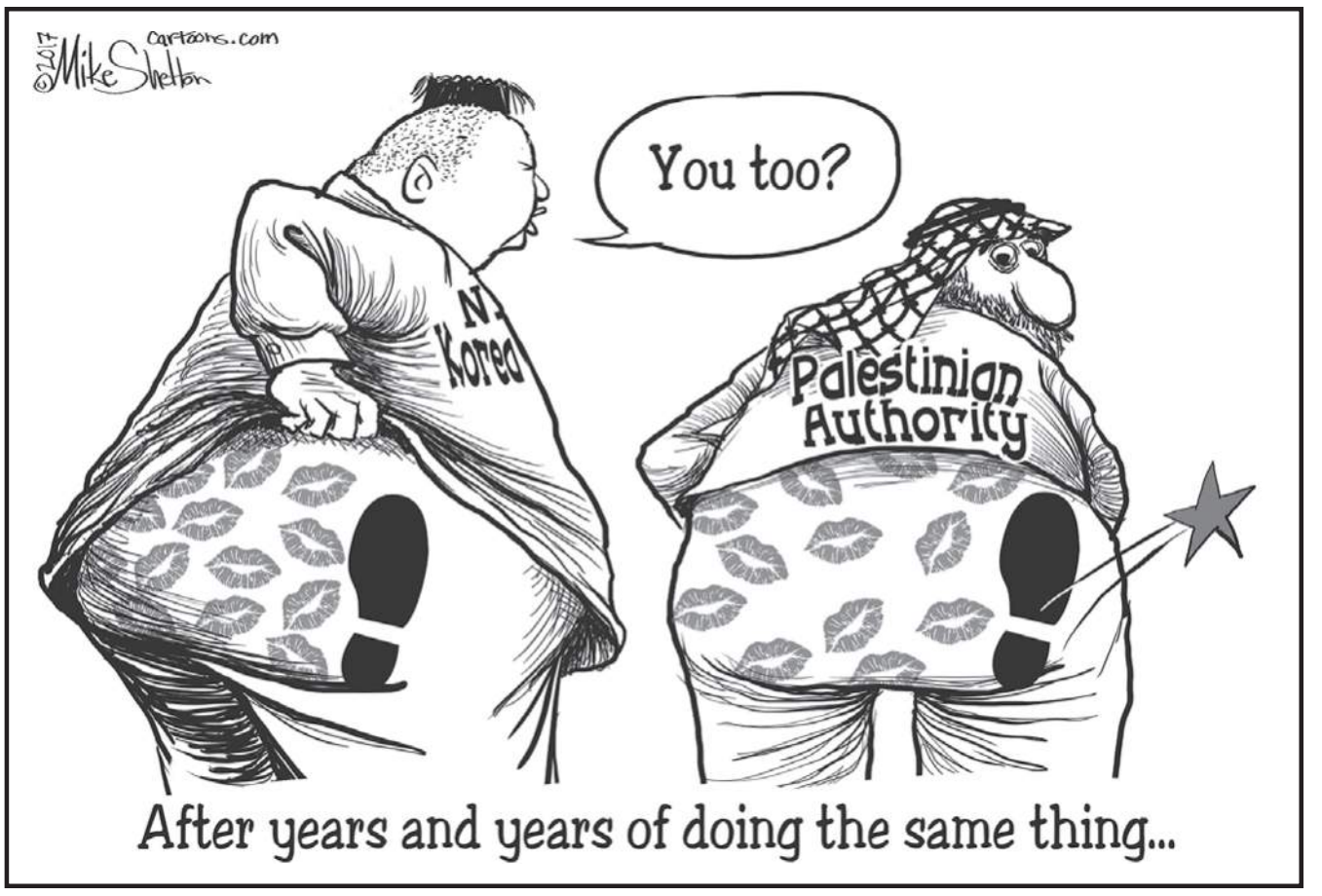
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

GOP's tax plan steamrolls democracy

Congress is set this week to pass a horrendous tax bill that will give the rich and corporations hefty tax cuts, will increase the deficit by $1 trillion over 10 years, will leave 13 million people uninsured by eliminating the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate and will force cuts in federal programs as revenues dry up. In terms of unfairness and reckless economic policy, it will rank among the worst legislation ever passed.

But this bill is a travesty not only for what's in it, but for what happened around it on its way to becoming law. It is deeply unpopular legislation – American voters disapproved of the tax plan 53 to 29 in a recent Quinnipiac poll. Nonetheless it is being rammed through Congress on straight party line votes without public hearings and deliberation. Polarization has been eating away at the democratic process like an acid in recent years, but what is expected to happen this week in Washington, D.C., signals that the process is burned all the way through.

Respecting and following the democratic process isn't a mere matter of civility. It's crucial to the integrity and quality of legislation. Public hearings and legislative debate reveal flaws in a bill and build consensus for change. A lack of hearings and debate means acting without considering consequences and creates cynicism about the motivations behind the legislation.

The United States prides itself on being a nation of laws, but if it passes bad laws – laws without popular support or open deliberation and prone to unintended effects – what kind of nation is it? If the democratic process breaks down, is a democracy still functioning?

Apparently not. Democrats have rightly questioned why there needs to be such a rush to pass a massive tax bill. Certainly the economy is not in need of stimulation. The reason is that the bill lacks support and the more it's scrutinized the more the public will oppose it. So the process has been ignored in a headlong race to get the bill to President Trump's desk before opposition builds.

Fast track bill

Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, a Democratic member of the Senate Budget Committee, said after the bill whipped through his committee on a party line vote with limited debate, no testimony from experts and no public hearings, "I thought, Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I had seen just about everything. But this committee has just completed a key discussion on the budget foundations for 10 trillion dollars of tax-policy changes in less time than it takes to wash a car."

Frederick W. Mayer, a professor at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy, says this flouting of legislative conventions to expedite the tax bill represents "a new low." Mayer, a former aide to U.S. Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) and a foreign policy adviser to former Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.), said short-circuiting the process raises the risks of passing laws that contain errors and cause unintended effects.

See GOP on Next Page

The Thomas fire is terrifying. Fire trends are even more so

By MICHAEL KODAS
Los Angeles Times

Michael Kodas is the author of "Megafire: The Race to Extinguish a Deadly Epidemic of Flame" *and associate director of the Center for Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Since it ignited, the Thomas fire has burned more than 250,000 acres in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties and become the third-largest fire on record in California. On Thursday, it killed a firefighter. But as frightening as this beast of a blaze really is, the overall trends look even worse.

Prior to 1995, the United States averaged one "mega-fire" a year, according to the U.S. Forest Service, which gives that title to blazes that burn more than 100,000 acres. During the last decade, California has met that old average all by itself, while the United States as a whole is now experiencing nearly 10 such fires annually. Researchers predict that, by the middle of this century, twice the amount of U.S. land will burn in bad fire years than does today.

Of course it's not just land that burns. Developments are springing up in ever more fire-prone forests, canyons and mountains. One in three U.S. homes — some 44 million residences — are in the wildland-urban interface, or WUI, where they abut fire-prone forests and open space. California, along with Florida and Texas, has the highest concentration of homes in the WUI. And with rents skyrocketing in cities, developers are pushing into some of Southern California's most flammable rural areas at an ever-increasing rate.

The Thomas fire will likely rage past the winter solstice, marking yet another troubling trend. To date, the warming and drying climate has expanded the nation's fire season by some 78 days overall. Firefighters in California already talk about their "year-round fire season."

Not only are the conditions ripe for the Thomas fire to continue its devastation, but there's a real possibility of more large fires breaking out in the coming months.

Southern California was parched, with Los Angeles recording just 4 percent of its historic average of rainfall since Oct. 1, even before the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warned last week that a strengthening La Nina weather pattern would likely lead to an unusually warm and dry winter in the region. A persistent high-pressure ridge in the Pacific has held back precipitation and cooler temperatures, leading some climatologists to worry that the state is about to fall back into a deep drought. California's snowpack is at 34 percent of normal for this time of year.

Although the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has abundant resources to deal with normal wildfires in any month of the year, mega-fires that burn outside the historical fire season prove challenging for both the state and the nation. In the past, many wildland firefighters were college students earning money for tuition. During the winter, they're in school, and the federal equipment needed to help battle fires may be offline, stored in warehouses.

At this point, it's indisputable that more winter mega-fires are coming. Yet many of the stakeholders affected by wildfires of increasing size and frequency can't look away from their narrow self-interests to focus on the crisis at hand.

Every bad fire season brings calls from the timber industry to increase logging in forests, overgrown after a century in which the United States snuffed every wildfire. It's true that some of our forests have 10, 20 or even 40 times more trees than they had prior to the nation's zero-tolerance policy toward wildfires, and that well-managed timber harvests can reduce the fire risk in some woodlands. But those who present such harvests as a win-win of business profits and a reduced chance of fire often neglect to acknowledge an obvious truth: Most of the vegetation increasing the risk is brush, deadfall and small trees that have little economic value, while the big, thick trees that hold the financial payoff can resist and survive most flames. Timber operations that harvest the big trees but leave the small ones may actually fuel big blazes, not mitigate them.

Like the timber industry's supposed win-win solutions, some ranchers push managers of public lands to allow more cattle to munch down heavy loads of flammable grass to reduce the chance of fire. Here again there's an obvious logical flaw: Overgrazing in many parts of the Southwest has allowed dense stands of trees to encroach on grasslands, in some cases leading to more severe wildfires rather than fewer.

Even thoughtful attempts to make communities more resilient to wildfires have spotty records. Certainly it's smart to build homes with defensible space around the structure, use fire-resistant building materials such as metal roofs and keep flammable materials such as propane tanks and woodpiles away from the house. But those efforts are for naught if residents don't diligently rake up needles and leaves, clean out their gutters and mow the grass, or if developers use their "fire-wise" construction to justify pushing homes into ever more combustible landscapes.

Meanwhile, as the wildfire problem worsens, California's

See THOMAS on Next Page

Will the Instant Pot be another flash in

By DAVID PIERSON
Los Angeles Times

High-end juicers. Home seltzer machines. Sous vide. Every year there's a new fad culinary gadget that wins a coveted spot on countertops across the country, only to be relegated to distant cupboards or the garage once the novelty wears off.

This holiday season, nothing in the kitchen is more buzzworthy than the Instant Pot — a multipurpose electric cooker that slow cooks, pressure cooks, sautes, steams and even makes yogurt from scratch.

The gadget has attained cult-like status among its devotees for its ability to reduce cooking times, dirty dishes and waistlines (since it's averse to fried foods). Those reasons, experts say, give the Instant Pot something kitchen gifts of Christmases past have lacked: staying power.

"They are a great example of product innovation meeting consumer needs," said Joe Derochowski, executive director and home industry analyst at research firm NPD Group. "Multi-cookers are not a fad."

The device's inventor, Robert Wang, insists the appliance is every bit as indispensable as a microwave. But even he saw his company's motto — "An Instant Pot in every kitchen" — as a far-fetched goal.

Five years and millions of unit sales later, the phrase doesn't sound all that laughable to him anymore.

"I think it's attainable now," Wang said from his company headquarters in Ottawa.

Over 800,000 fans now belong to the Instant Pot's Facebook group, sharing recipes and photos. Food writers and chefs have embraced the appliance. And a cottage industry of accessories and cookbooks have spawned out of the Instant Pot's success, which has been buoyed by word-of-mouth buzz since Wang eschews traditional advertising and marketing.

"The people who love their Instant Pots are evangelical about it and tell their friends," said Laurel Randolph, a food writer who has sold over 350,000 copies of her cookbook, "The Instant Pot Electric Pressure Cooker Cookbook: Easy Recipes for Fast & Healthy Meals."

"I understand the skepticism with so many kitchen gadgets out there, but this just keeps getting more popular," said Randolph, who is working on a second Instant Pot cookbook that includes more recipes from around the world.

The runaway success of the Instant Pot, which typically sells for less than $100, has propelled sales of multi-cookers 79 percent to over $300 million in the 12 months ending in November, according to NPD.

In addition to Instant Pot, brands such as Black + Decker, Breville and Cuisinart also make multi-cookers (NPD does not track sales data by brands and Wang declined to share company revenue and sales figures). None of those rivals, however, have enjoyed the kind of sales Instant Pot has had on Amazon, where it's regularly a best seller during promotional events such as Cyber Monday.

Growth in the appliance has been bolstered by the fact that more Americans are eating at home, and looking for ways to cook more conveniently and faster, NPD said.

With an electric pressure cooker — which is far less intimidating for many people than a stovetop pressure cooker — soups and stews that used to take hours to prepare can be served in less than 60 minutes.

"Multi-cookers are hitting all of the hot buttons for today's consumers — speed and convenience in healthy at-home meal-prep, multi-functionality, and ease of use," said Derochowski of NPD.

Wang said the Instant Pot's technological ancestor is the humble electric rice cooker. Wang figured he could add pressure sensors to the device to make it more versatile for different methods of cooking. He initially invested about $50,000 developing the Instant Pot, a process that took 18 months.

It's not perfect, Wang admits. The buttons make the appliance look too busy and the learning curve can be a bit steep for neophytes. Anyone predisposed to fears about pressure cookers, which is not uncommon, may also take a pass at purchasing the Instant Pot.

While his gadget might be a novelty in American kitchens, Asian households have long been used to the idea of space-age rice cookers and pressure cookers — particularly in southern China and Hong Kong, where the latter are used to make bone broths sipped with every meal.

Wang, a 53-year-old former telecom engineer whose family originates from China, said he's now looking at other kitchen appliances to update — though he won't say which ones. He did, however, offer a clue. The Instant Pot is ideal for moist foods such as braises, soups and grains. But when it comes to roasts or anything that requires a crispy texture, the device falls short.

"Crispy would be a whole new area for us," Wang said.

What's missing from the GOP tax bill?

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

You've probably read plenty about what's in the tax bill that House and Senate Republicans agreed to last week: A big cut in corporate taxes. Generous tax cuts for the wealthy, including a reduction of the top individual tax rate. More modest cuts for anyone who makes less than $200,000 or so.

Equally striking is what's missing. There are many different ways to cut taxes, but they all require making choices. Not everyone benefits equally.

This bill put corporate tax cuts first; that's where roughly 70 percent of the benefits go. There's not much in the bill for the working poor — those who earn less than $40,000 a year. Most of those folks pay no federal income tax, but they do pay Social Security and Medicare taxes, which were not cut.

The tax bill doesn't expand the Earned Income Tax Credit, part of the tax code that supplements the income of low-wage workers. A full-time single worker who earns the federal minimum wage of $14,500 a year currently gets an EITC of only $37; an increase would have made a difference.

The EITC is beloved by Democrats. Some Republicans — including House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin — support it, too. But an expansion didn't make it into this year's bill.

The working poor did get one break: Republican Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida and Mike Lee of Utah insisted on an increase in the refundable part of the child tax credit. Under the bill, workers who don't pay income taxes can claim up to $1,400 per child. (Workers who do pay taxes can claim $2,000 as long as their income is below $400,000.)

But Rubio and Lee didn't get the biggest change they wanted, which was to apply the credit to low-wage workers' entire income. Under their proposal, a minimum-wage worker making $14,500 would get a $494 tax credit; under the current bill, she'll get only $75, according to the liberal Center for Budget and Policy Priorities.

Another missing item: President Trump's promise to get rid of the carried interest loophole. "Carried interest was unfair, and it's gone," Trump said last spring.

But that odious tax break isn't gone. It's just been tweaked a little.

Under current law, when managers of private equity funds, venture capital funds and hedge funds reap a share of their investors' profits, they pay taxes at the low rate that applies to capital gains, not the higher rate that applies to ordinary income.

Under the new law, the fund managers still get that break, as long as they hold the underlying investment for at least three years. Tax experts say most of the managers who claim the loophole won't find that to be a problem.

Also lost in the shuffle: Simplicity.

When the House of Representatives started work on the bill, it eliminated many tax deductions, including medical expenses, state taxes and local taxes. Some of those deductions turned out to be popular, and they were revived in the negotiations between the House and Senate. As a result, plenty of middle-class taxpayers will have to figure their taxes under two systems, both with itemized deductions and without.

One final notable absence is a pot of money to finance better roads, bridges and airports.

When the tax debate started, one popular proposal — popular among policy wonks, anyway — was to pay for infrastructure with taxes from repatriated profits.

U.S. companies have trillions of dollars parked overseas, and the tax bill would allow them to bring that money home at a reduced tax rate. The added revenue could reach $298 billion over 10 years, according to Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation.

But the money has already been spent. The bill commits the revenue to pay for its cuts to corporate and individual income taxes. There's nothing left over for roads and bridges.

The biggest missing items are the unfulfilled populist promises of Trump's presidential campaign.

"Tax reform will protect low-income and middle-income households, not the wealthy and well-connected," the president said last spring. "They can call me all they want. It's not going to help. I'm doing the right thing, and it's not good for me. Believe me."

When he came to the White House, Trump and his aides promised that the wealthy wouldn't get a tax cut. His populist advisor, Stephen K. Bannon, even suggested socking the rich with a tax increase. That didn't happen.

"The Republican establishment has no interest in Trump's success on this," Bannon complained after he left the White House in August. "They'll do a very standard Republican version of taxes."

It isn't easy to make a tax cut unpopular. But Trump and Republican leaders in Congress have managed a feat of negative alchemy: They've turned a bill that should have been political gold into lead. Polls have found that fewer than one-third of voters, on average, think this tax bill is a good idea. That's less popular than Obamacare was when it passed in 2010.

The reason it's unpopular? Most voters think the bill is so tilted in favor of corporations and the wealthy that there's nothing left over for them. And they're right.

GOP

From Page 10

"The reason why it often takes longer (to pass legislation) than people would like is that our system was designed to force compromise and to be deliberative," he said. "When you cut corners on that, which is what's happening now, you definitely make mistakes." He added, "It's pretty horrifying to witness what is going on."

What makes the hijacking of democracy on Capitol Hill even more troubling is that it's not confined to Congress. Republicans are using the same tactics in state legislatures where they have full control. They're not only skipping legislative traditions and conventions, but by undermining the right to vote with voter ID laws and other election law changes and frustrating the popular will through gerrymandering.

North Carolina ignores process

North Carolina, of course, is one of the nation's extreme cases. Republicans enjoy a super majority and have taken an imperial approach to lawmaking. Democratic legislators are ignored and the public is often shut out. Significant changes in law and policy are hidden in massive budget bills. Bills are gutted and filled with unrelated legislation late in the session. Special sessions are called without clarifying or limiting the agenda. Public comment on controversial legislation is sharply limited. More than 1,000 Moral Monday protesters were arrested inside the Legislative Building.

The reduction of democracy only has one cure – more democracy. People who want to be heard need to vote. That message is starting to get through as seen in the election results in Virginia and the special Senate election in Alabama.

Mayer notes voters are pushing back against gerrymandering and eventually will reclaim a true democratic process. He said, "The optimist in me thinks that having identified the problem to some extent we will find a way out of this."

We can only hope. And vote.

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THOMAS

From Page 10

commitment to preparation is rather fitful. The state levies fines of up to $500 for homeowners who fail to clear dangerously fire-prone vegetation, and Cal Fire can seek restitution in the courts from people who negligently start wildfires. Last July, however, in a deal to extend the state's cap-and-trade program, state legislators suspended a $150 fire-prevention fee that was charged to some 800,000 California residents who live in rural areas. (The Republican lawmakers who reviled that fee ought to take a look at the latest firefighting invoice.)

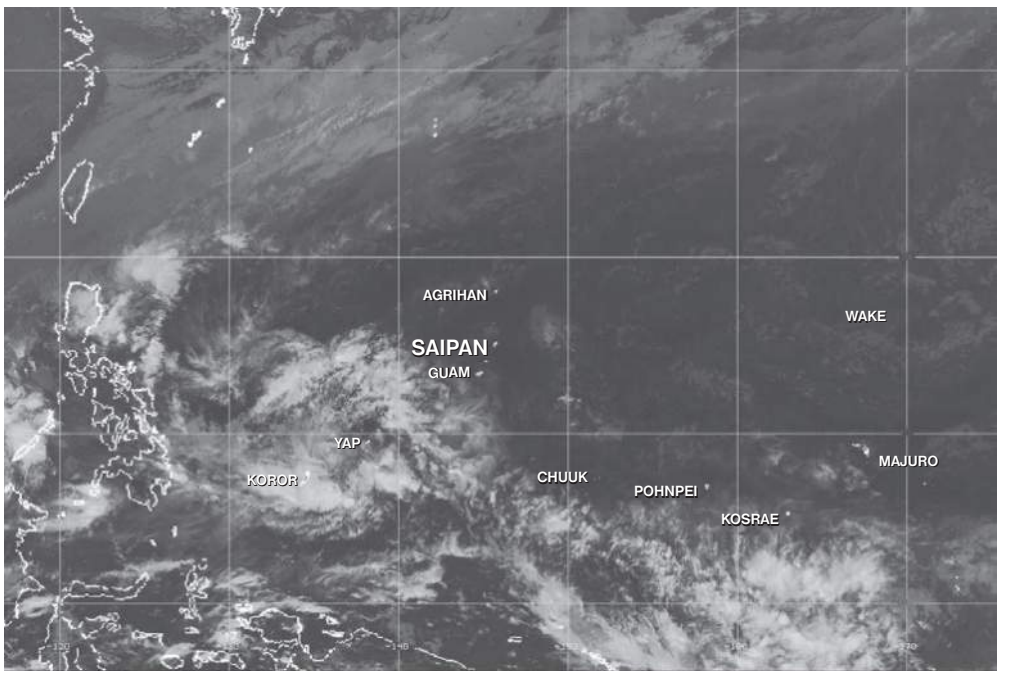
To deal with the trend toward larger, more frequent, year-round mega-fires, California will need to take a longer view. It will have to stand up to industries whose claims aren't supported by science, to developers and planners who promote building into fire-prone landscapes, and to citizens who don't want to foot the bill for living in a state filled with forests and fire.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:45 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The weak trade-wind disturbance has passed through the Marianas overnight with little more than a few briefly heavy showers and associated gusty winds. The next several days will be quiet, with only isolated showers. An increase in moisture will result in more cloudiness over the weekend into Christmas Day, but showers should remain isolated.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 21°
Hong Kong	Sunny	68° / 57°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 70°
London	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	61° / 44°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°
Melbourne	Sunny	75° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	79° / 68°
New York	Partly Cloudy	45° / 30°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	50° / 36°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	45° / 43°
Busan	Sunny	46° / 28°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	48° / 30°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 60°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	52° / 42°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	34° / 19°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	48° / 37°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	49° / 31°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:53 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.27
9:51 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
3:28 PM	LOW TIDE	1.17
8:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.78

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:53 am	7:29 pm	-
Thursday	8:39 am	8:18 pm	-
Friday	9:24 am	9:08 pm	-
Saturday	10:07 am	9:58 pm	-
Sunday	10:49 am	10:47 pm	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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Live the Fiesta Way!
Happy Holiday
Christmas Eve Special
World Café Restaurant
Seafood & Roast Beef Dinner Buffet
with Turkey Carving Station
December 24, 2017, Sunday
6:00pm ~ 9:30pm
$40 per adult & $19 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Including Red & White Wine & American Beer
Christmas Brunch
World Café Restaurant
December 25, 2017, Monday
11:00am ~ 2:00pm
$40 per adult & $19 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Including Beer, Red & White Wine,
Sparkling Wine and Juice
Picture with Santa
New Year's Eve Special
World Café Restaurant
Seafood & Roast Beef Dinner Buffet
with Ham Carving Station
December 31, 2017, Sunday
6:00pm ~ 9:30pm
$60 per adult & $30 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Including Red & White Wine, American Beer & Soda
New Year's Countdown
with Joyful Dinner Show
"Island Style" Dinner Show
December 31, 2017, Sunday
6:00pm ~ 1:00am
$90 per adult & $45 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Including Red & White Wine, American Beer and Juice
Cocktail Party Only at 10pm @ $50 per adult & child
New Year's Day Brunch
World Cafe Restaurant
January 1, 2018, Monday
11:00am ~ 2:00pm
$40 per adult & $20 per child 4 ~ 11 years old
Including Sparkling Wine, Beer, Red & White Wine and Juice
"Mochi-Tsuki"
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1

Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **171 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 12, 2018** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). ***Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.***

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 29, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer – via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-004

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS
(Revised December 13, 2017)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-18-004, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 26, 2018,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.*

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7).

Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders shall comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 10, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org; Joseph Crisostimo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostimo@cucgov.org; and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Business

Congress' official tax analyst sees 2027 tax boosts for many

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Republican tax bill would mean average initial tax cuts for Americans across all income lines, but by 2027, it would boost average levies for everyone earning up to $75,000, which includes most taxpayers, Congress' nonpartisan tax analyst estimated Monday.

The projection seemed unlikely to have any impact on the fate of the legislation, which was expected to win House approval Tuesday. Senate passage was likely by Wednesday as the GOP races to send President Donald Trump his first major legislative victory before Christmas.

The Joint Committee on Taxation calculated that in 2019, people earning $20,000 to $50,000 would see tax cuts averaging 10 percent or more. Those making $200,000 to $1 million would see reductions averaging slightly less.

But by 2023, people making under $30,000 would see tax increases while those earning more would see their tax cuts get smaller.

That pattern would continue. In 2027, a year after most individual tax provisions expire, people making up to $75,000 would be paying more on average than under current law. The committee says around 118 million of the 177 million tax returns are from households making up to $75,000.

Republicans ended the individual tax cuts in 2026 to conform to Senate rules that require the measure to limit the federal debt increases it would cause. The bill is projected to boost federal shortfalls by nearly $1.5 trillion over the coming decade.

GOP lawmakers say they'd expect a future Congress to continue the tax cuts so they won't expire. If achieved, that would drive up deficits even further.

A separate study by the Tax Policy Center, a private nonpartisan group, found that individual taxes would be reduced on average next year by $1,600.

But that ranged on average from $60 for people earning below $25,000 to $7,640 for those making above $149,000. Those in the top 1 percent, earning over $733,000, would see average tax cuts of $51,140.

In 2027, 53 percent of families would face tax increases averaging $180. Those tax boosts on average would grow with income, the policy center said.

One in four taxpayers that year would have tax reductions averaging $1,540, with larger cuts for higher-earning people.

Most of the bill's benefits go to businesses and the wealthy, which Republicans say would goose the economy and benefit all. Democrats reject that assertion and are expected to oppose the bill unanimously.

On Monday, moderate Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she'd support the bill, meaning all voting Republicans are expected to back it, enough for passage. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is at home battling brain cancer and is expected to miss the vote. The GOP controls the Senate 52-48.

House GOP pushing $81B disaster relief for hurricanes, fires

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans plan to unveil an $81 billion disaster aid package to help hurricane-ravaged communities and states hit by wildfires, almost double the amount requested by President Donald Trump last month.

The emergency aid would provide $26 billion for community development block grants, which would help Florida, Texas and the Caribbean rebuild along with Western states recovering from wildfires. There's funding for prevention of future flooding, highway repairs and help for small businesses. The package also would provide $3.8 billion for agriculture. Florida lawmakers have said citrus crops in their state have been suffering.

"It's a big win for Florida's agriculture," said Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Fla.

Last month, Trump requested $44 billion, his third emergency request since hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria slammed the Gulf Coast and Caribbean. The request sparked howls from lawmakers from hurricane-hit states.

"While it was not everything, it was further than the administration proposed," Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, said Monday.

The emergency relief could be paired with a stopgap spending bill to avert a government shutdown at midnight Friday or advance separately.

The Senate's top Republican announced a lengthy wish list that he hopes to attach to a must-do spending bill this week, but there's no agreement with the chamber's Democrats and little time to waste.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is eyeing the measure as a shortcut to power several other items into law, including hurricane relief, a renewal of a children's health insurance program and funding to stabilize "Obamacare" insurance markets.

But top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer has other priorities, chiefly protection from deportation of immigrants commonly referred to as "Dreamers" and securing spending increases for domestic agencies to match huge budget increases sought by defense hawks for the Pentagon.

The must-pass spending bill would be the main item of congressional business remaining after Republicans wrap up action on their hard-fought tax bill. Lawmakers are eager to head home for the holidays.

GOP leaders are aiming for Tuesday votes in both the House and Senate on the tax measure, which would be the biggest win by far for Trump on Capitol Hill.

As Republicans controlling Congress hashed out their tax measure, however, a stack of unfinished legislation has piled up. Negotiations have produced some progress, but many disagreements remain. Perhaps most significantly, Democrats are demanding that Trump fulfill pledges to address the immigration issue, which involves protections for immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children and who have often known no other home that the U.S.

Republicans leaders don't want to take on the politically explosive issue of immigration this year but promise it will be taken care of next year. And GOP leaders have so far rejected Democratic demands that domestic agencies and foreign aid accounts receive spending increases at parity with the $60 billion to $70 billion or more increase that Republicans want to award the Department of Defense.

In the House, GOP leaders have announced a plan to pair a huge Pentagon funding bill with record spending increases with a stopgap spending measure called a continuing resolution that would keep the rest of the government running at current levels through Jan. 19. They have also added a GOP-drafted renewal of the popular Clinton-era Children's Health Insurance Program.

Nation

Amtrak train on new route hurtles onto highway, kills 3

DUPONT, Wash. (AP)— An Amtrak train making the first-ever run along a faster new route hurtled off an overpass south of Seattle on Monday and spilled some of its cars onto the highway below, killing at least three people, injuring more than 100 and crushing two vehicles, authorities said.

Attention quickly turned to the train's speed. A website that maps location and speed using data from Amtrak's train tracker app showed the train was going 81.1 mph (129 kph) about a quarter of a mile from the point where it derailed, where the speed limit is significantly lower.

Seventy-seven passengers and seven crew members were aboard when the train derailed and pulled 13 cars off the tracks. Authorities said there were three confirmed deaths and more than a dozen people with critical or serious injuries.

About two hours after the accident, a U.S. official who with others was briefed on the investigation said he was told at least six people were killed. No additional briefings were provided by late afternoon, and the official said he had no new information to explain the discrepancy in the numbers.

The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

A track chart prepared by the Washington State Department of Transportation shows the maximum speed drops from 79 mph (127 kph) to 30 mph (48 kph) for passenger trains just before the tracks curve to cross Interstate 5, which is where the train went off the tracks.

The chart, dated Feb. 7, 2017, was submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration in anticipation of the start of passenger service along a new bypass route that shaves 10 minutes off the trip between Seattle and Portland.

It was not clear how fast the train was moving at the precise moment when it derailed.

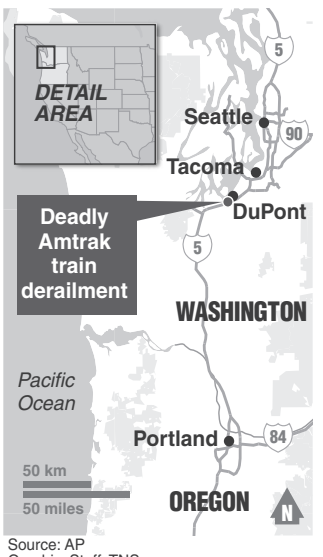
Kimberly Reason with Sound Transit, the Seattle-area transit agency that owns the tracks, confirmed to the AP that the speed limit at the point where the train derailed is 30 mph (48 kph). Speed signs are posted two miles before the speed zone and just before the speed zone approaching the curve, she said.

Positive train control— the technology that can slow or stop a speeding train— wasn't in use on this stretch of track, according to Amtrak President Richard Anderson.

He spoke on a conference call with reporters, said he was "deeply saddened by all that has happened today."

In a radio transmission immediately after the accident, the conductor can be heard saying the train was coming around a corner and was crossing a bridge that passed over Interstate 5 when it derailed. Dispatch audio also indicated that the engineer survived with bleeding from the head and both eyes swollen shut.

"I'm still figuring that out. We've got cars everywhere and down onto the highway," he tells the dispatcher, who asks if everyone is OK.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Massive Southern California wildfire now halfway contained

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Firefighters took advantage of calm winds in Southern California to reach 50 percent containment of a massive wildfire, officials said.

"We've had a very productive day," said Deputy Chief Mark Brown of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protections. "The weather conditions were just right for us."

Monday was the first of a two-day window of calm winds in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties where the so-called Thomas Fire has burned for two weeks.

The fire northwest of Los Angeles has now spread to about 423 square miles (1,095 square kilometers), making it the third biggest since accurate records were kept starting in 1932. The largest, the 2003 Cedar Fire in San Diego County, burned about 427 square miles.

Officials estimate the Thomas Fire will grow to become the biggest in state history before full containment, which is expected by Jan. 7.

It was still threatening communities northwest of Los Angeles, where thousands remain under evacuation orders.

The hot, gusty winds that caused a huge flare-up and forced more residents to flee over the weekend are expected to come back Wednesday.

The fire churning through brush in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties has burned more than 1,000 structures, including at least 750 homes. Some 18,000 more residences are still threatened.

Michael and Sonia Behrman told KABC-TV they fled their hillside home when heavy smoke blew in and returned to find it in ashes.

"It's just hard to put into words," Michael Behrman said. "It's where we live. It's just smoke and ruin right now."

The body of a firefighter killed while battling the blaze was transported Sunday in a procession that rolled through five counties before ending up at a funeral home in San Diego. Mourners stood on freeway overpasses to pay respects to firefighter Cory Iverson, 32, who died Dec. 14 of burns and smoke inhalation. He is survived by his pregnant wife and a 2-year-old daughter.

The blaze is also blamed for the Dec. 6 death of a 70-year-old woman who died in a car crash on an evacuation route.

Everything about the fire has been massive, from the sheer scale of destruction that destroyed entire neighborhoods to the legions of people attacking it. More than 8,000 firefighters from nearly a dozen states battled the third largest wildfire in state history.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Acting Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Royal View Hotel
Himawari Hotel & Commercial Building
Gualo Rai Townhouse

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction and operation of the Royal View Hotel, the Himawari Hotel & Commercial Building, and the Gualo Rai Town ouse projects.

Mr. Hui Tao Tsang is proposing to construct and operate the Royal View Hotel. The Royal View Hotel is a five-story hotel building in Garapan, Saipan formerly the Sunleader Market. The project includes 51 guest rooms, a snack bar and dining area and 42 parking spaces.

The Himawari Saipan, Inc. is proposing to expand its hotel operation by constructing a 4-story building with 50 additional hotel units. Himawari has an existing 3-story commercial building which includes a hotel of 50 rooms, a grocery store, bakery, restaurant and parking spaces.

The Arcadia Partners, LLC is proposing to construct eight pre-fabricated 3-bedroom townhouses, two- to three-stories each, in Gualo Rai, Saipan. The developer proposes to provide two parking spaces for each unit (16 total parking spaces), as well as swimming pools and landscaping designs for the property.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Monday, January 8, 2018, at 4:30PM. Location to be announced.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about these projects.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Town House

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Christmas Sale

FREE Mountain Bike*
RETAIL VALUE $499

5 PC. CHERRY BEDROOM SET (QUEEN)
52319Q-H+F
REG. 1,399
SALE $699

*Purchase the Mattress and get a 'Free' Mountain Bike' Offer valid while supplies lasts.

Hybrid Memory Foam Mattress w/coils

Twin Mattress Reg $899 Sale $599
Full Mattress Reg $999 Sale $699
Queen Mattress Reg $1,150 Sale $850
King Mattress Reg $1,299 Sale $999

Promo period
Dec 20 - 31, 2017

- Aspen Super Sport Mountain Bike
- 28 inch Men's mountain bike
- 21 speed
- Front shocks
- Disk brakes
- Adjustable seats and hand bars
- Boxed and unassembled

LAWSON QUEEN BED (HEAD BOARD AND FOOT BOARD)
B7550-Q
REG. 599
SALE $499

BUNK BED
Walnut LB817-BB
REG. $599
SALE $499

CAPT. BED WITH UNDERBED
Dirt Oak - LB813-CB+UD
REG. 899
SALE $449

SECTIONAL SOFA WITH RECLINERS
WEBS-LLCN3195/WEBS-WDGN3195
REG. $1,995
SALE $1,399

RECLINERS
REG. $499
SALE $299

COUNTER HEIGHT TABLE SET
(Tahoe 5PK)
REG. $599
SALE $499

9 PC DINING SET
REG. $999
SALE $699

5 PC. EXPANDABLE DINING TABLE SET
Expandable Table with 4 chairs
ED 67/Boy-New Walnut/FG5
REG. $649
SALE $399

43.25" H POTTERY PITCHER FOUNTAIN
FT-1183/4L
REG. $895
SALE $499

YAMAHA PSR-F51 PORTABLE KEYBOARD
REG. 149
SALE $99

C40M YAMAHA GUITAR
REG. 199
SALE $99

YAMAHA F310 GUITAR
REG. 199
SALE $99

GE COMPACT REF 17.5 CU FT
GTE18GSHSS
REG. 1,195
SALE $899

AMANA 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
ART308FFDW
REG. 995
SALE $899

GE FREE-STANDING GAS RANGE SS 4.8 CU FT. SEALED BURNERS
JGBS60REKSS
REG. $799
SALE $699

GE FREE STANDING ELECTRIC RANGE 5.0CU FT.
JBS10DFWW
REG. $699
SALE $479

GE 4.8 CU GAS RANGE, WHITE
JGS60DEKWW
REG. $799
SALE $699

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IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Construction Carpenter
NUMBER OF OPENING: 420
WAGES/SALARY: $14.51 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $21.77 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Follow established safety rules and regulations and maintain a safe and clean environment.
- Study specifications in blueprints, sketches, or building plans to pre pare project layout and determine dimensions and materials required.
- Measure and mark cutting lines on materials, using a ruler, pencil, chalk, and marking gauge.
- Shape or cut materials to specified measurements, using hand tools, machines, or power saws.
- Install structures or fixtures, such as windows, frames floorings, trim, or hardware, using carpenters' hand or power tools.
- Verify trueness of structure, using plumb bob and level. Select and order lumber or other required materials.
- Arrange for subcontractors to deal with special areas, such as heating or electrical wiring work.
- Maintain records, document actions, and present written progress reports.
- Build or repair cabinets, doors, frameworks, floors, or other wooden fixtures used in buildings, using woodworking machines, carpenter's hand tools, or power tools. Erect scaffolding or ladders for assembling structures above ground level.
- Inspect ceiling or floor tile, wall coverings, siding, glass, or woodwork to detect broken or damaged structures.
- Assemble and fasten materials to make frameworks or props, using hand tools and wood screws, nails, dowel pins, or glue.
- Remove damaged or defective parts or sections of structures and repair or replace, using hand tools.
- Finish surfaces of woodwork or wallboard in houses or buildings, using paint, hand tools, or paneling.
- Apply shock-absorbing, sound-deadening, or decorative paneling to ceilings or walls.
- Cover subfloors with building paper to keep out moisture and lay hard wood, parquet, or wood-strip-block floors by nailing floors to subfloor or cementing them to mastic or asphalt base.
- Fill cracks or other defects in plaster or plasterboard and sand patch, using patching plaster, trowel, and sanding tool.
- Perform minor plumbing, welding, or concrete mixing work.
- Prepare cost estimates for clients or employers.
- Construct forms or chutes for pouring concrete.
- Work with or remove hazardous material.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
One (1) year of on-the-job experience as a Construction Carpenter is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51540.

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Construction Laborer
NUMBER OF OPENING: 30
WAGES/SALARY: $11.00 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $16.50 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Clean or prepare construction sites to eliminate possible hazards.
- Signal equipment operators to facilitate alignment, movement, or adjustment of machinery, equipment, or materials.
- Read plans, instructions, or specifications to determine work activities.
- Load, unload, or identify building materials, machinery, or tools, distributing them to the appropriate locations, according to project plans or specifications.
- Measure, mark, or record openings or distances to layout areas where construction work will be performed.
- Dig ditches or trenches, backfill excavations, or compact and level earth to grade specifications, using picks, shovels, pneumatic tampers, or rakes.
- Mix, pour, or spread concrete, using portable cement mixers.
- Tend pumps, compressors, or generators to provide power for tools, machinery, or equipment or to heat or move materials, such as asphalt.
- Erect or dismantle scaffolding, shoring, braces, traffic barricades, ramps, or other temporary structures.
- Provide assistance to craft workers, such as carpenters, plasterers, or masons. Lubricate, clean, or repair machinery, equipment, or tools.
- Position or dismantle forms for pouring concrete, using saws, hammers, nails, or bolts.
- Smooth or finish freshly poured cement or concrete, using floats, trowels, screeds, or powered cement finishing tools.
- Operate jackhammers or drills to break up concrete or pavement.
- Install sewer, water, or storm drain pipes, using pipe-laying machinery or laser guidance equipment.
- Operate or maintain air monitoring or other sampling devices in confined or hazardous environments.
- Mix ingredients to create compounds for covering or cleaning surfaces.
- Grind, scrape, sand, or polish surfaces, such as concrete, marble, terrazzo, or wood flooring, using abrasive tools or machines.
- Position, join, align, or seal structural components, such as concrete wall sections or pipes.
- Tend machines that pump concrete, grout, cement, sand, plaster, or stucco through spray guns for application to ceilings or walls.
- Spray materials, such as water, sand, steam, vinyl, paint, or stucco, through hoses to clean, coat, or seal surfaces. Apply caulking compounds by hand or caulking guns to protect against entry of water or air.
- Mop, brush, or spread paints, cleaning solutions, or other compounds over surfaces to clean them or to provide protection.
- Perform site activities required of green certified construction practices, such as implementing waste management procedures, identifying materials for reuse, or installing erosion or sedimentation control mechanisms.
- Green Task Statement
- Apply weather-stripping to reduce energy loss.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Construction Laborer is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51543.

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Crane Tower Operator
NUMBER OF OPENING: 12
WAGES/SALARY: $18.63 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $27.95 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Determine load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload.
- Move levers, depress foot pedals, or turn dials to operate cranes, cherry pickers, electromagnets, or other moving equipment for lifting, moving, or placing loads.
- Inspect and adjust crane mechanisms or lifting accessories to prevent malfunctions or damage.
- Inspect cables or grappling devices for wear and install or replace cables, as needed.
- Direct helpers engaged in placing blocking or outrigging under cranes.
- Clean, lubricate, and maintain mechanisms such as cables, pulleys, or grappling devices, making repairs as necessary.
- Load or unload bundles from trucks or move containers to storage bins, using moving equipment.
- Review daily work or delivery schedules to determine orders, sequences of deliveries, or special loading instructions.
- Inspect bundle packaging for conformance to regulations or customer requirements and remove and batch packaging tickets.
- Direct truck drivers backing vehicles into loading bays and cover, uncover, or secure loads for delivery.
- Weigh bundles, using floor scales, and record weights for company records.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as a Crane Tower Operator is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51550.

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IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Electrical Technician
NUMBER OF OPENING: 84
WAGES/SALARY: $17.94 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $26.91 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Plan layout and installation of electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, based on job specifications and local codes.
- Connect wires to circuit breakers, transformers, or other components.
- Test electrical systems or continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using testing devices, such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, or oscilloscopes, to ensure compatibility and safety of system.
- Use a variety of tools or equipment, such as power construction equipment, measuring devices, power tools, and testing equipment, such as oscilloscopes, ammeters, or test lamps.
- Inspect electrical systems, equipment, or components to identify hazards, defects, or the need for adjustment or repair, and to ensure compliance with codes.
- Prepare sketches or follow blueprints to determine the location of wiring or equipment and to ensure conformance to building and safety codes.
- Diagnose malfunctioning systems, apparatus, or components, using test equipment and hand tools to locate the cause of a breakdown and correct the problem.
- Work from ladders, scaffolds, or roofs to install, maintain, or repair electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures.
- Advise management on whether continued operation of equipment could be hazardous.
- Maintain current electrician's license or identification card to meet governmental regulations.
- Place conduit, pipes, or tubing, inside designated partitions, walls, or other concealed areas, and pull insulated wires or cables through the conduit to complete circuits between boxes.
- Direct or train workers to install, maintain, or repair electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures.
- Repair or replace wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using hand tools or power tools.
- Install ground leads and connect power cables to equipment, such as motors.
- Assemble, install, test, or maintain electrical or electronic wiring, equip ment, appliances, apparatus, or fixtures, using hand tools or power tools.
- Perform business management duties, such as maintaining records or files, preparing reports, or ordering supplies or equipment.
- Fasten small metal or plastic boxes to walls to house electrical switches or outlets.
- Construct or fabricate parts, using hand tools, according to specifications.
- Perform physically demanding tasks, such as digging trenches to lay conduit or moving or lifting heavy objects.
- Provide assistance during emergencies by operating floodlights or generators, placing flares, or driving needed vehicles.
- Provide preliminary sketches or cost estimates for materials or services.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as an Electrical Technician is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51544.

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IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Mason
NUMBER OF OPENING: 414
WAGES/SALARY: $14.27 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $21.41 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Set the forms that hold concrete to the desired pitch and depth, and align them.
- Check the forms that hold the concrete to see that they are properly constructed.
- Spread, level, and smooth concrete, using rake, shovel, hand or power trowel, hand or power screed, and float.
- Monitor how the wind, heat, or cold affect the curing of the concrete throughout the entire process. Direct the casting of the concrete and supervise laborers who use shovels or special tools to spread it.
- Produce rough concrete surface, using broom. Mold expansion joints and edges, using edging tools, jointers, and straightedge.
- Clean chipped area, using wire brush, and feel and observe surface to determine if it is rough or uneven. Signal truck driver to position truck to facilitate pouring concrete, and move chute to direct concrete on forms.
- Apply hardening and sealing compounds to cure surface of concrete, and waterproof or restore surface. Operate power vibrator to compact concrete.
- Chip, scrape, and grind high spots, ridges, and rough projections to finish concrete, using pneumatic chisels, power grinders, or hand tools.
- Cut out damaged areas, drill holes for reinforcing rods, and position reinforcing rods to repair concrete, using power saw and drill.
- Waterproof or restore concrete surfaces, using appropriate compounds.
- Wet concrete surface, and rub with stone to smooth surface and obtain specified finish.
- Wet surface to prepare for bonding, fill holes and cracks with grout or slurry, and smooth, using trowel. Fabricate concrete beams, columns, and panels. Install anchor bolts, steel plates, door sills and other fixtures in freshly poured concrete or pattern or stamp the surface to provide a decorative finish.
- Build wooden molds, and clamp molds around area to be repaired, using hand tools.
- Cut metal division strips, and press them into terrazzo base so that top edges form desired design or pattern.
- Push roller over surface to embed chips in surface.
- Polish surface, using polishing or surfacing machine.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Mason is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51545.

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IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Painter
NUMBER OF OPENING: 156
WAGES/SALARY: $14.16 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $21.24 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Fill cracks, holes, or joints with caulk, putty, plaster, or other fillers, using caulking guns or putty knives.
- Cover surfaces with dropcloths or masking tape and paper to protect surfaces during painting.
- Smooth surfaces, using sandpaper, scrapers, brushes, steel wool, or sanding machines.
- Read work orders or receive instructions from supervisors or homeowners to determine work requirements.
- Apply primers or sealers to prepare new surfaces, such as bare wood or metal, for finish coats. Apply paint, stain, varnish, enamel, or other finishes to equipment, buildings, bridges, or other structures, using brushes, spray guns, or rollers. Erect scaffolding or swing gates, or set up ladders, to work above ground level.
- Mix and match colors of paint, stain, or varnish with oil or thinning and drying additives to obtain desired colors and consistencies.
- Calculate amounts of required materials and estimate costs, based on surface measurements or work orders.
- Polish final coats to specified finishes.
- Wash and treat surfaces with oil, turpentine, mildew remover, or other preparations, and sand rough spots to ensure that finishes will adhere properly.
- Select and purchase tools or finishes for surfaces to be covered, consid ering durability, ease of handling, methods of application, and customers' wishes.
- Remove old finishes by stripping, sanding, wire brushing, burning, or using water or abrasive blasting.
- Remove fixtures such as pictures, door knobs, lamps, or electric switch covers prior to painting.
- Use special finishing techniques such as sponging, ragging, layering, or faux finishing. Cut stencils and brush or spray lettering or decorations on surfaces. Waterproof buildings, using waterproofers or caulking.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Painter is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51546

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IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Plumber
NUMBER OF OPENING: 264
WAGES/SALARY: $16.68 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $25.02 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Assemble pipe sections, tubing, or fittings, using couplings, clamps, screws, bolts, cement, plastic solvent, caulking, or soldering, brazing, or welding equipment.
- Install pipe assemblies, fittings, valves, appliances such as dishwashers or water heaters, or fixtures such as sinks or toilets, using hand or power tools.
- Keep records of work assignments.
- Fill pipes or plumbing fixtures with water or air and observe pressure gauges to detect and locate leaks. Direct helpers engaged in pipe cutting, preassembly, or installation of plumbing systems or components. Maintain or repair plumbing by replacing defective washers, replacing or mending broken pipes, or opening clogged drains.
- Locate and mark the position of pipe installations, connections, passage holes, or fixtures in structures, using measuring instruments such as rulers or levels.
- Measure, cut, thread, or bend pipe to required angle, using hand or power tools or machines, such as pipe cutters, pipe-threading machines, or pipe-bending machines.
- Review blueprints, building codes, or specifications to determine work details or procedures.
- Anchor steel supports from ceiling joists to hold pipes in place.
- Estimate time, material, or labor costs for use in project plans. Install underground storm, sanitary, or water piping systems, extending piping as needed to connect fixtures and plumbing.
- Inspect structures to assess material or equipment needs, to establish the sequence of pipe installations, or to plan installation around obstructions, such as electrical wiring.
- Install green plumbing equipment, such as faucet flow restrictors, dual-flush or pressure-assisted flush toilets, or tankless hot water heaters. Green Task Statement Cut openings in structures to accommodate pipes or pipe fittings, using hand or power tools.
- Weld small pipes or special piping, using specialized techniques, equipment, or materials, such as computer-assisted welding or microchip fabrication.
- Green Task Statement Install alternative water sources, such as rainwater harvesting systems or graywater reuse systems.
- Green Task Statement
- Recommend energy or water saving products, such as low-flow faucets or shower heads, water-saving toilets, or high-efficiency hot water heaters.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as a Plumber is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51547

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IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Riveter
NUMBER OF OPENING: 12
WAGES/SALARY: $14.01 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $21.02 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Rivets structural members, assemblies, and parts of structures, using portable riveting, dimpling, and drilling machines and hand tools.
- Reads work orders, blueprints, and operation sheets to determine sequence of operations and type size and hole pattern of rivets.
- Removes temporary bolts or fasteners and inserts rivets in pre-drilled holes.
- Places drive head of rivet gun against rivet shank and pulls trigger to actuate hammer that spreads rivet, or spreads rivet, using rivet set and hammer.
- Rivets together adjoining edges of structural components and assemblies.
- Places two dies of rivet squeezer over head and shank of rivet, and presses trigger to activate dies that flatten shank of rivet. Drills and reams rivet holes and drills out defective rivets.
- Forms dimples around rivet holes, using portable dimpling gun or stationary dimpling machine.
- May align and assemble parts to be riveted, using jigs, holding fixtures, pins, clamps, and fasteners.
- May buck rivets.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Riveter is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51548.

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Steel Worker
NUMBER OF OPENING: 102
WAGES/SALARY: $14.01 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $21.02 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope.
- Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members.
- Verify vertical and horizontal alignment of structural steel members, using plumb bobs, laser equipment, transits, or levels. Cut, bend, or weld steel pieces, using metal shears, torches, or welding equipment. Erect metal or precast concrete components for structures, such as buildings, bridges, dams, towers, storage tanks, fences, or highway guard rails.
- Force structural steel members into final positions, using turnbuckles, crowbars, jacks, or hand tools.
- Pull, push, or pry structural steel members into approximate positions for bolting into place. Unload and position prefabricated steel units for hoisting as needed.
- Drive drift pins through rivet holes to align rivet holes in structural steel members with corresponding holes in previously placed members.
- Assemble hoisting equipment or rigging, such as cables, pulleys, or hooks, to move heavy equipment or materials.
- Fabricate metal parts, such as steel frames, columns, beams, or girders, according to blueprints or instructions from supervisors.
- Dismantle structures or equipment. Ride on girders or other structural steel members to position them or use rope to guide them into position.
- Insert sealing strips, wiring, insulating material, ladders, flanges, gauges, or valves, depending on types of structures being assembled.
- Hold rivets while riveters use air hammers to form heads on rivets.
- Insert sealing strips, wiring, insulating material, ladders, flanges, gauges, or valves, depending on types of structures being assembled.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as a Plumber is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51549

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Welder
NUMBER OF OPENING: 156
WAGES/SALARY: $17.63 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $26.45 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Weld components in flat, vertical, or overhead positions. Operate safety equipment and use safe work habits.
- Lay out, position, align, and secure parts and assemblies prior to assembly, using straightedges, combination squares, calipers, and rulers.
- Examine workpieces for defects and measure workpieces with straight edges or templates to ensure conformance with specifications.
- Recognize, set up, and operate hand and power tools common to the welding trade, such as shielded metal arc and gas metal arc welding equipment.
- Weld separately or in combination, using aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, and other alloys.
- Clamp, hold, tack-weld, heat-bend, grind or bolt component parts to obtain required configurations and positions for welding. Select and install torches, torch tips, filler rods, and flux, according to welding chart specifications or types and thicknesses of metals.
- Ignite torches or start power supplies and strike arcs by touching electrodes to metals being welded, completing electrical circuits.
- Connect and turn regulator valves to activate and adjust gas flow and pressure so that desired flames are obtained.
- Determine required equipment and welding methods, applying knowledge of metallurgy, geometry, and welding techniques.
- Monitor the fitting, burning, and welding processes to avoid overheating of parts or warping, shrinking, distortion, or expansion of material.
- Operate manual or semi-automatic welding equipment to fuse metal segments, using processes such as gas tungsten arc, gas metal arc, flux-cored arc, plasma arc, shielded metal arc, resistance welding, and submerged arc welding.
- Analyze engineering drawings, blueprints, specifications, sketches, work orders, and material safety data sheets to plan layout, assembly, and welding operations.
- Mark or tag material with proper job number, piece marks, and other identifying marks as required.
- Chip or grind off excess weld, slag, or spatter, using hand scrapers or power chippers, portable grinders, or arc-cutting equipment.
- Remove rough spots from workpieces, using portable grinders, hand files, or scrapers.
- Prepare all material surfaces to be welded, ensuring that there is no loose or thick scale, slag, rust, moisture, grease, or other foreign matter.
- Preheat workpieces prior to welding or bending, using torches or heating furnaces. Develop templates and models for welding projects, using mathematical calculations based on blueprint information.
- Position and secure workpieces, using hoists, cranes, wire, and banding machines or hand tools.
- Guide and direct flames or electrodes on or across workpieces to straighten, bend, melt, or build up metal.
- Detect faulty operation of equipment or defective materials and notify supervisors.
- Clean or degrease parts, using wire brushes, portable grinders, or chemical baths.
- Cut, contour, and bevel metal plates and structural shapes to dimensions as specified by blueprints, layouts, work orders, and templates, using powered saws, hand shears, or chipping knives.
- Repair products by dismantling, straightening, reshaping, and reassem bling parts, using cutting torches, straightening presses, and hand tools.
- Fill holes, and increase the size of metal parts.
- Check grooves, angles, or gap allowances, using micrometers, calipers, and precision measuring instruments.
- Operate metal shaping, straightening, and bending machines, such as brakes and shears.
- Set up and use ladders and scaffolding as necessary to complete work.
- Hammer out bulges or bends in metal workpieces.
- Dismantle metal assemblies or cut scrap metal, using thermal-cutting equipment, such as flame-cutting torches or plasma-arc equipment.
- Signal crane operators to move large workpieces. Use fire suppression methods in industrial emergencies.
- Estimate materials needed for production and manufacturing and maintain required stocks of materials.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as a Welder is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
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SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
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FREQUENCY OF PAY
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HOUSING & MEAL
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RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
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SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
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World

UN says there are 258M international migrants today

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—An estimated 258 million people have left their birth countries and are now living in other nations— an increase of 49 percent since 2000, says a U.N. report on international migration released Monday.

The biennial report released on International Migrants Day said the percentage of the world's people who are international migrants has increased modestly from 2.8 percent in 2000 to 3.4 percent this year.

But the report from the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs said the percentage living in high-income countries rose from 9.6 percent in 2000 to 14 percent in 2017.

"Reliable data and evidence are critical to combat misperceptions about migration and to inform migration policies," said Undersecretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Liu Zhenmin.

In September 2016, all 193 U.N. member states, including the United States under President Barack Obama, adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It said no one country can manage international migration on its own.

The countries agreed to implement well-managed migration policies and committed to sharing more equitably the burden of hosting refugees. They also agreed to protect the human rights of migrants and to counter xenophobia and intolerance toward migrants.

They further agreed to launch a process leading to the adoption of a global compact in 2018.

Liu said the new estimates "will provide an important baseline for member states as they begin negotiations on the Global Compact."

One important country will not be taking part. In early December, the United States said it was ending its participation in negotiations on the compact.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said the declaration "is simply not compatible with U.S. sovereignty." A statement from the U.S. Mission said numerous provisions were "inconsistent with U.S. immigration and refugee policies" under President Donald Trump.

The U.N. report said that in 2017, high-income countries hosted 64 percent of the international migrants worldwide, or nearly 165 million people.

This year, two-thirds of migrants were living in just 20 countries, the report said. The largest number— 49.8 million, or 19 percent of the global total— live in the United States. Saudi Arabia, Germany and Russia are hosting the second, third and fourth largest amounts, at around 12 million, while the United Kingdom is fifth with nearly 9 million, the report said.

WORLD BRIEFS

China's warplanes hold drill near Japan, South Korea, Taiwan

BEIJING (AP)—China sent several warplanes on a long-range drill to the Sea of Japan on Monday and also conducted drills around rival Taiwan, moved that prompted South Korea to scramble fighter jets and could raise concerns about Beijing's growing military presence in the region. Chinese air force spokesman Shen Jinke said the air force dispatched bombers, fighters and reconnaissance planes through the Tsushima Strait to the Sea of Japan to "test its ocean combat ability." "This is a regular annual training arrangement of China's air force that accords with the relevant international laws and practices and it isn't aimed at any particular state, region and target," Shen said in a statement. This was the first time the Chinese air force has flown through the strait that lies between South Korea and Japan, Shen said.

9 new Nazi war crimes cases sent to German state prosecutors

BERLIN (AP)—The main federal agency that investigates Nazi war crimes in Germany has turned over nine new cases to state authorities for possible prosecution. Berlin's taz newspaper reported Monday that the cases involve guards from the Auschwitz death camp, and the Mauthausen, Buchenwald and Ravensbrueck concentration camps. Mauthausen was in Austria and Auschwitz in Nazi-occupied Poland. Head prosecutor Jens Rommel, who confirmed the taz story to the dpa news agency, says most of the suspects are in their early to mid-90s. Rommel's office doesn't have the authority to press charges, so state prosecutors will now have to decide whether there's enough evidence to file charges. Under German law, camp guards have been successfully prosecuted for accessory to murder by proving they were present and helped camps function while killings took place.

Honduras president declared election winner; unrest persists

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Protests erupted across Honduras on Monday following an official declaration that President Juan Orlando Hernandez has won re-election, even as the Organization of American States proposed a re-do of the disputed vote. The OAS, which sent election observers to the country for the Nov. 26 election, issued a statement saying it was impossible to determine the outcome with enough certainty due to irregularities. Among the problems it listed were "deliberate human intrusions into the computer system, intentional elimination of digital traces," opened ballot boxes and "extreme statistical improbability regarding levels of participation within the same department," combined with the narrow vote differential. "The only possible path for the winner to be the Honduran people is a new call for general elections. ... Respecting democratic values and citizens is the necessary road to safeguard society from death and violence," the OAS said.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ELIZABETH TORRES SANTOS, Petitioner, vs. JEFF P. SANTOS, Respondent,) FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0400 **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after services of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 506557 CK Saipan, MP, 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 12th day of December, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

SECURITY SERVICES INVITATION FOR BIDS NMC IFB 18-001

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Security Services for the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Wednesday, December 6th, 2017 between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Submissions are due no later than 10:00 A.M, January 08, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: May request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this Invitation For Bids (IFB), if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/COTA-18-IFB-004

CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA) ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Construction of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility,** Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **December 6, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 28, 2017 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 12 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/COTA-18-IFB-004"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time January 18, 2018.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, January 18, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 18, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **January 29, 2018.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, February 1, 2018.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on January 18, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Three Hundred Sixty Five (365) calendar days for the Base Bid with an additional 35 calendar days for Bid Additive 1 and 30 calendar days for Bid Additive 2** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Five Hundred (US$500.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA, Secretary of Public Works
ALFREDA P. CAMACHO, Special Assistant for Public Transportation
HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director of Procurement & Supply

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING:

Bouquet dianthus reigns supreme for show and cut-flowers

TNS
Planting in mass like this Dianthus Bouquet Rose gives a wow element to the cool season landscape.

TNS
Dianthus Bouquet Purple dazzles with color and cuts.

TNS
This Palamedes swallowtail butterfly finds the Bouquet Purple Dianthus to be a nectar feast at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah, GA.

TNS
Bouquet Rose dianthus makes a perfect pal for this planter box containing Delta Pure Color Mix pansies.

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

This fall has been amazing for those of us who have been growing the Bouquet series of dianthus. The flower power of this dianthus is unmatched in the gardening world. I admit there was a little anxiety with the recent winter storm called Benji. Now Bouquet Purple was a Minnesota Select Perennial Plant of the Year, so we know it has excellent cold-hardiness.

You see our Bouquet dianthus was in full glorious bloom which is one of the reasons we plant them in the fall as pansy pals. This flower, however, has performed beyond our expectations. As the snows came, as the sleet fell and the temperatures plunged to the mid-20's Bouquet dianthus didn't even seem to lose a flower it performed like the 'champion' it is.

Many of us find ourselves in the midst of our cool season garden landscape. If you procrastinated because of the busy fall season, you might be looking for some flowers that will carry you into summer. The Bouquet series offers color, fragrance and a bounty of cuts for the vase.

You have to admit there is something special about cutting from your own garden and sharing. It might be as simple as giving a bouquet of cut flowers from the garden to your neighbors, or a Sunday school member that needs a little blessing. For cut flowers, it is recommended that stems be cut when three flowers are fully open.

If you are looking for a pansy companion, cut flower, and even a perennial performance, then the Bouquet dianthus series is my first choice of dianthus. For years it was a series of one, Bouquet Purple. This was like an electrifying shot of energy to the pansy pal market. First, forget the color purple, it is a shocking iridescent hot pink that will dazzle in any landscape.

Next in the series came Bouquet Rose Magic followed by Bouquet Rose, all equally good performers. Bouquet Rose Magic blooms open white and mature to light pink, then a deep rose color. Most flower stalks contain all of these colors at once.

The Bouquet series of dianthus is vigorous, reaching 18 to 24 inches tall and born to bloom. Though I am suggesting them as a partner for pansies, they will bloom much of the summer in the hot, humid south before going into a rest ready to start again in the fall.

They grow best in well-worked beds that are loose, rich in organic matter and well-drained. When preparing a bed, incorporate two pounds of a slow-release fertilizer with minor nutrients per 100 square feet of bed space. They will need plenty of sun to bloom to their potential.

For the prettiest display, set the dianthus out in drifts of three to four plants per square foot. The colors allow them to combine nicely with blue and purple pansies, pink petunias, dusty miller and by all means consider inter-planting with spring daffodils.

One last attribute that you will be delighted about is their ability to bring in butterflies. Gardeners might not think about the dianthus as being part of a pollinator project. Here in Savannah as our blooms opened up, we found gulf fritillaries, zebra heliconians various swallowtails, and sulphurs all participating in what seem to be a feast of the nectar d'jour.

Norman Winter is director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" *and* "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." *Follow him at: @CGBGgardenguru*

- Remove heavy snowfall from plant beds. Some snow does offer protection and moisture, but too much weight can damage wintering plants and leave behind too much standing water as it melts.
- Avoid heaping roadside snow onto planting areas; it's most likely full of road salt, which is damaging to roots and foliage.
- When snow accumulates on trees and bushes, remove it gently. Don't bang on the branches, as they may snap and break. - *Brenda Weaver*

Source: www.bhg.com, ag.umass.edu

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Life & Style

'The Last Jedi' is a hit but how much did audiences like it?

NEW YORK (AP)—With glowing reviews from critics and $450.8 million of worldwide box office in the first three days of release of "The Last Jedi," all would seem to be right in the "Star Wars" universe.

But some audience reaction metrics suggest not all Star Wars fans are so thrilled with Rian Johnson's eighth episode in the franchise. While "The Last Jedi" sports a sterling 93 percent fresh Rotten Tomatoes score, the website's users give it only a 56 percent score . A similar dichotomy is also found on the movie review aggregation website Metacritic , where the movie has a score of 86 out of 100 from critics but earned a woeful 4.9 out of 10 from users.

The role reversal between critics and fans has caused consternation throughout the Star Wars galaxy. Could "The Last Jedi" be a critical smash and a dud with audiences? Is "The Last Jedi" more "Attack of the Clones" than "The Empire Strikes Back"? What in the name of midi-chlorians is going on here?

For starters, the responses on Rotten Tomatoes and Metacritic are to be taken with a Death Star-sized grain of salt. They're supplied by users to the website who can, by creating numerous accounts, vote limitlessly, and need offer no proof of having actually seen the movie. Some believe a nefarious plot is at play, a theory backed up by the boasts of a few on social media . Similar ploys , after all, were used against the female-led "Ghostbusters."

But why would anyone want to sabotage "The Last Jedi"? Well, there have been growing signs of rebellion against the galaxy far, far away. Some conservative moviegoers have taken issue with the current trilogy's embrace of multiculturalism. Claiming an anti-Donald Trump agenda, some called for a boycott of last year's spinoff "Rogue One." Writer Chris Weitz noted the Empire "is a white supremacist (human) organization."

Politics have always played a role in "Star Wars." George Lucas has said he wrote it as a Nixon-era parable for the Vietnam War, about how democracies turn into dictatorships. But in carrying those themes forward to today, "The Last Jedi" has— like virtually everything else— been fed into America's combustible politics. Even Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) has volleyed with Texas Senator Ted Cruz on Twitter over net neutrality.

AP
Actors Laura Dern, from left, Mark Hamill, Daisy Ridley and John Boyega pose for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' in London, Wednesday, Dec. 13th, 2017.

"Similar to other movie sites, we're currently experiencing a high volume of fan activity around 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi,'" said Rotten Tomaotes spokesman Tiyson Reynolds. "We're closely monitoring all user review activity to make sure it's valid."

But their low ratings don't jive with other, more scientific data.

Like "The Force Awakens," "The Last Jedi" won an A CinemaScore, which polls audiences coming out of theaters. CinemaScore counted feedback as 89 percent positive. ComScore's PostTrak audience survey recorded an average five-out-five star rating from moviegoers, with 80 percent saying they would definitely recommend the film.

And then there's the mammoth box office. With $220 million in domestic ticket sales, "The Last Jedi" now ranks as the second highest grossing opening weekend of all time, after J.J. Abrams' "The Force Awakens." Disney's distribution chief Dave Hollis estimates "The Last Jedi" will have legs through the holiday season similar or close to those of "The Force Awakens," which ultimately grossed more than $2 billion worldwide. "The Last Jedi" is likely to eventually rank among the highest grossing films of all time, but it will depend on strong word-of-mouth and repeat viewings to sniff the realm of "The Force Awakens" or "Titanic."

Yet regardless of any user scores, "The Last Jedi" has proved to be easily the most divisive "Star Wars" film. (Lucas' second trilogy was too universally panned to be much argued over.)

Even many fans who generally applauded the film have taken issue with its comic flashes, a Princess Leia moment roundly compared to Mary Poppins, and of the film's treatment of Hamill's Skywalker. (Cantankerous and ornery, he spends most of the film on an isolated island.) And by shifting the parameters for how the Force works, some have said "The Last Jedi" is, as Variety claimed, "making stuff up as it goes along."

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to address first 'jazz congress'

NEW YORK (AP)—A new jazz conference seeks to determine what role jazz can play in today's society, and it has tapped Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as its keynote speaker.

Jazz Congress will hold its inaugural event on Jan. 11 in New York City. While Abdul-Jabbar is best known as a Hall of Fame basketball legend, he's also become a cultural commentator and has long been a jazz enthusiast; his father was a trombonist.

Abdul-Jabbar will discuss what role jazz can play in the cultural, political and social framework of today's society.

The goal of the Jazz Congress is to boost the jazz community, which has dwindled over the decades. The conference will be held at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Meryl Streep: 'I wasn't deliberately silent' on Weinstein

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Meryl Streep says she did not know Harvey Weinstein was allegedly harassing and assaulting women when they worked together.

Streep says in a statement Monday that Weinstein "needed me much more than I needed him and he made sure I didn't know." The Oscar winner says her association with him brought him credibility, which she says he used "to lure young, aspiring women into circumstances where they would be hurt."

Streep says she composed the statement in response to a since-deleted tweet from Rose McGowan, who called out Streep for working with Weinstein. McGowan has alleged that Weinstein raped her.

Streep says she's sorry McGowan sees her as an adversary because they are on the same side in the fight to eradicate the status quo power structure in Hollywood.

Other woman cheats on man who's cheating on his wife

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, my husband confessed that he was having an affair at work. Before it started, he tried setting "Velma" up with his twin brother, but she said she wasn't interested. Their affair lasted for months, until the guilt "ate him up." When he told me, I was devastated.

We agreed to get counseling and work on our marriage. Well, it turns out Velma was also seeing his brother while she was with my husband. Oh! And she had a baby, and we're not sure who the father is.

My brother-in-law claims he loves Velma and she loves him. I have been asked if I am willing to sit with her, my husband and brother-in-law to "clear the air." I don't think I can do it. Although I want my brother-in-law to be happy, at the same time, I don't want to ever be near this woman. Please help.

LOSING MYSELF

DEAR LOSING YOURSELF: Has your brother-in-law MARRIED Velma? If not, I see no reason why you should be forced to clear anything with her. If the two of them have tied the knot, then I can see a benefit for you in having a discussion. Of course, that discussion should be in the office of a professional mediator, and you should first make a list of all the questions you would like her to answer.

At the top of the list would be why she was sleeping with your husband and his brother at the same time. Close to that one would be why she thinks you would ever want to have a relationship with her. Take it from there and add questions of your own.

DEAR ABBY: I am a Korean lady whose husband spends a lot of time on Facebook. He says it's to promote his books. (He loves to write.) I think he does it to get recognition from his Facebook "friends."

Well, that may be great for him. But my problem with him —and Facebook—is that sometimes he provides too much information about ME. None of it is positive.

We had a fight two weeks ago, and the next thing I knew, I was reading about it on Facebook, all from his point of view. Before that, he complained he only got a bowl of cereal for breakfast when he would have liked a hot meal instead. Excuse me, but what's stopping him from making one for himself when I have to drop off the kids at school and go to work?

I feel hurt after reading what he's posting and ashamed for not being a "good enough" spouse. Am I overly sensitive or should I confront him about this? I could use some wise advice.

EMBARRASSED IN KOREA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

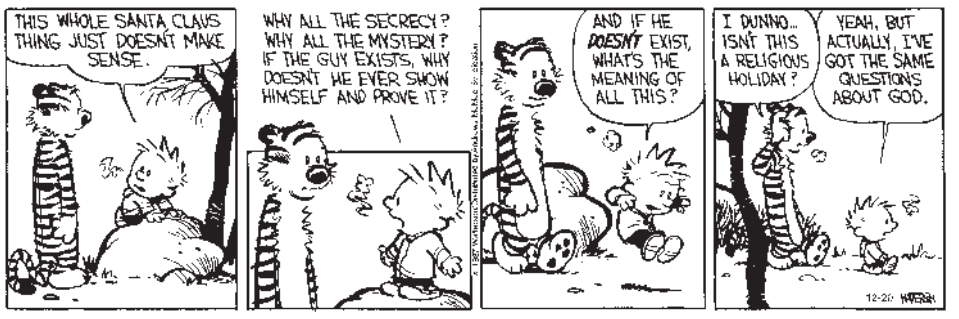
DEAR EMBARRASSED: By all means talk to your husband about what he's been doing, because if he has complaints, they should be directed to you rather than his Facebook buddies. If you feel compelled to defend yourself, you can always reply to his posts to set the record straight. If he continues to publicly discuss what should be a private matter, you might be less embarrassed if you read his posts less often or unfriend him altogether.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

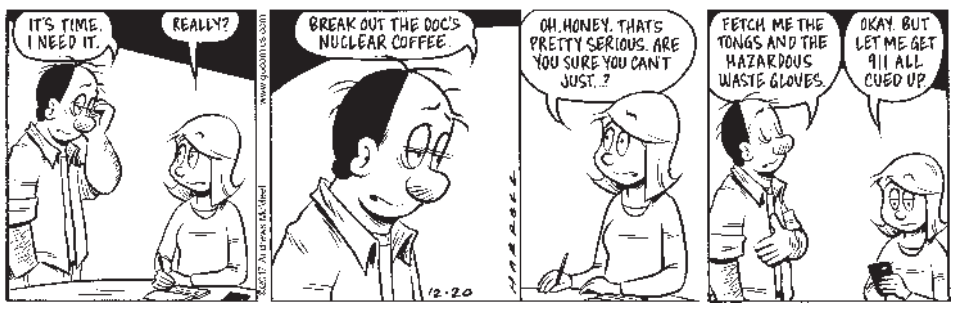

THIS WHOLE SANTA CLAUS THING JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
WHY ALL THE SECRECY? WHY ALL THE MYSTERY? IF THE GUY EXISTS, WHY DOESN'T HE EVER SHOW HIMSELF AND PROVE IT?
AND IF HE DOESN'T EXIST, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THIS?
I DUNNO... ISN'T THIS A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY?
YEAH, BUT ACTUALLY, I'VE GOT THE SAME QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD.
12-20

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IT'S TIME. I NEED IT.
REALLY?
BREAK OUT THE DOC'S NUCLEAR COFFEE.
OH, HONEY. THAT'S PRETTY SERIOUS. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN'T JUST...?
FETCH ME THE TONGS AND THE HAZARDOUS WASTE GLOVES.
OKAY. BUT LET ME GET 911 ALL CUED UP.
12-20

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DO YOU THINK THE TREE IS GOING TO MAKE IT TILL CHRISTMAS?
LET'S HOPE NOT.
WHY?!
I TOOK OUT A HUNDRED-DOLLAR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY ON IT.
12-20

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Mystique
5 Muppet master Henson
8 Ordered
12 Boast
13 Exist
14 "East of Eden" son
15 Bread sellers
17 Poker variety
18 Kagan of the Supreme Court
19 Fall flowers
21 Goatee's spot
24 That girl
25 Rage
28 Florida county
30 "— a Wonderful Life"
33 British verb ending
34 Judicial garb
35 Leading lady?
36 "Mazel —!"
37 Medicinal plant
38 "Hey!"
39 Shade tree
41 Scottish hillside
43 To a greater extent
46 Indian metropolis
50 Actress Falco
51 Napa Valley businesses
54 Calendar row
55 Singer Rawls
56 Dutch cheese
57 Back talk
58 Hero sandwich
59 Specks

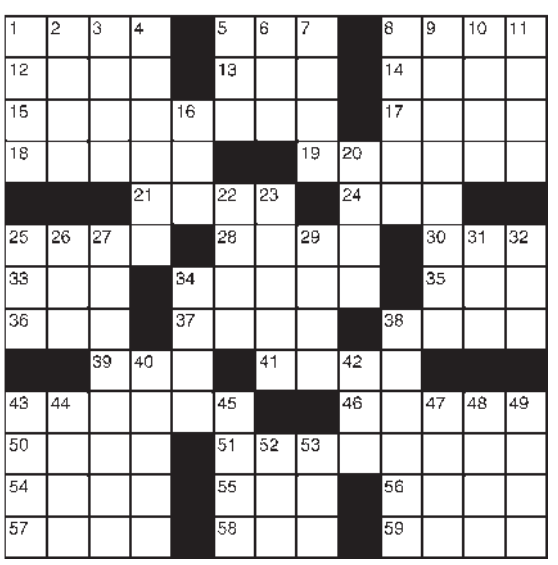
DOWN

1 French cleric
2 Russian river
3 Croupier's tool
4 Bureau
5 — alai
6 Hot temper
7 Butte's kin
8 Butter up the turkey
9 Blood lines
10 Gloomy
11 Goals
16 Fan's cry
20 "— a Lady"
22 Pedestal occupant
23 Mogul
25 In shape
26 GIs' entertainers
27 Daydreams
29 Antelope's playmate
31 Big-screen buys
32 Fixed
34 Runs (into)
38 Gazed
40 Vichyssoise veggies
42 Sports drink suffix
43 Kitten calls
44 Classic theaters
45 They give a hoot
47 Chic beach resort
48 Miami team
49 Doctrines
52 Debtor's letters
53 Gist

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	R	M	S	■	■	D	A	Y	■	■	V	A	N
B	A	R	E	■	■	I	W	O	■	M	E	N	U
C	H	I	C	K	E	N	S	■	■	P	E	A	I
■	■	■	R	O	T	■	E	R	U	P	T	S	■
S	H	O	E	S	■	S	M	O	G	■	■	■	■
P	U	N	T	■	C	H	I	M	N	C	Y	S	■
F	S	E	■	S	U	I	T	F	■	R	O	E	■
C	H	I	P	O	T	L	E	■	C	O	K	E	■
■	■	■	L	O	B	O	■	M	U	S	E	S	■
C	O	R	O	N	A	■	B	E	D	■	■	■	■
A	N	E	W	■	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	■
A	C	N	E	■	K	I	D	■	L	A	L	A	■
N	E	F	D	■	S	S	F	■	E	T	O	N	■

Yesterday's answer 12-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonah Hill, 34; David Cook, 35; Nicole de Boer, 47; Joel Gretsch, 54.

Happy Birthday: You may crave change, but don't operate on emotions alone. Common sense and thinking matters through will save you from making a mistake. A well-thought-out plan will be your ticket to greater happiness and satisfaction. Consider your choices and the people involved in your life. Make decisions that will bring long-term effects, not instant gratification. Your numbers are 2, 13, 24, 32, 37, 41, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Choose love over force. Someone will test your patience if you feel you are being taken for granted. Use your intelligence to even out the playing field and you will have no regrets. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Refrain from making an impulsive move. Be extra cautious when dealing with legal, financial or health issues. Make whatever adjustments are necessary and proceed with honesty, love, patience and understanding. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Emotional matters will escalate when dealing with your peers, superiors or anyone looking for a way to make you look bad. Use your charm and powers of persuasion to smooth over any past mistakes that could end up costing you. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be careful how you spend your money. Impulsive purchases will not turn out to be as great as you anticipate. Walk away from situations that can leave you emotionally exhausted and confused. Concentrate on investing in yourself, not someone else. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't give in to someone who is asking you to make unrealistic changes. Step aside and do your own thing instead of allowing your emotions to lead you into a vulnerable situation. Know when to say "no" and walk away. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll get an emotional nudge from someone you live with or are close to. Don't dismiss what's being said. The clues are right in front of you. Ask questions and find out what you can do to encourage better days ahead. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't fold under pressure. You can't make a decision if you aren't ready. Look for peace and quiet or spend time with someone you know will offer you sound advice. Don't limit what you want to do because of someone else. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Lend a helping hand and you will feel good. It's the little things that will count the most, so don't waste your time on extravagant offerings when your time, patience and hands-on help are all that are required to succeed. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Impulsive spending will leave you in a quandary. Take a moment to consider the consequences of your actions before you make your move. Choose to be methodical rather than reckless. If you want to show off, do something nice for someone. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll excel when it comes to getting things done, but don't sign up for something that will take you away from the promises you have made to your family. A last-minute change of plans will throw you off-guard. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Spur-of-the-moment purchases, decisions and offers will not work out well in the end. Be careful not to make promises you won't want to keep. Keep your schedule simple and offer your time to those you care about. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Emotional decisions may cost you. You can offer help or suggestions, but don't go overboard trying to do too much for too many. You have to look out for your own interests if you want to avoid getting burned out. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, persistent and industrious. You are social and resourceful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					3	6	5	
				8				
	5	8	2		4	1	3	
1	6			9			2	5
4								1
7								6
8								2
	9						1	
		2	4	7	5	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	2	3	4	6	7	9	1	5
6	1	4	8	5	9	3	7	2
5	9	7	3	2	1	6	4	8
9	5	8	6	1	4	2	3	7
4	6	1	7	3	2	5	8	9
3	7	2	5	9	8	4	6	1
2	3	6	1	7	5	8	9	4
1	8	5	9	4	3	7	2	6
7	4	9	2	8	6	1	5	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PERSONAL EVENTS Solution: 7 letters

P	A	Y	C	H	E	C	K	R	E	P	O	R	T	S
R	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	S	D	U	E	F	Y	U
I	S	F	A	M	E	L	U	E	R	K	L	E	A	M
V	I	F	N	W	O	R	R	M	B	A	N	I	D	M
A	S	F	G	V	P	U	S	I	A	E	E	J	H	E
C	I	S	E	R	L	S	F	T	T	R	O	F	T	R
Y	R	D	I	I	E	I	C	R	H	B	E	N	R	B
R	C	S	A	N	R	N	A	E	S	C	E	R	I	R
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Freeman runs for 126 yards, Falcons beat Bucs

AP
Atlanta Falcons running back Devonta Freeman (24) looks to get around Tampa Bay Buccaneers free safety Chris Conte, right, after a reception during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 18, 2017, in Tampa, Fla.

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Devonta Freeman pounded away all night until he finally found a way into the open field, helping the Atlanta Falcons remain in the thick of the tight NFC South race.

With sidekick Tevin Coleman out with a concussion and Matt Ryan not particularly sharp throwing the ball, Freeman rushed for 126 yards and a touchdown to key a 24-21 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Monday night.

The fourth-year pro scored on a 32-yard run midway through the fourth quarter, darting through a hole on the right side before cutting back to elude the only defender with a shot at tackling him and restore a 10-point lead for the Falcons (9-5), who barely hung on to win for the fifth time in six games.

"We had a sense this would be a big night for him. We talked about that before the game," Falcons coach Dan Quinn said. "We thought he would have his opportunities. If he could get to the next level and to a linebacker or safety or corner, make sure he had a plan how he wanted to finish."

Freeman also caught five passes for a team-high 68 yards and had a first-half fumble recovered in the end zone by teammate Levine Toilolo for a touchdown. Ryan threw an early TD pass to Justin Hardy and finished 17 of 31 passing for 212 yards and no interceptions.

The victory kept Atlanta within one game of New Orleans and Carolina in the division standings with two to play. If the playoffs started now, the Falcons would be the second NFC wild-card.

Atlanta plays at New Orleans next Sunday, then closes the regular season at home against the Panthers.

"We're right where we need to be at this point of the season ... and we've got to find a way to get back to work this week, try to improve and make sure we play the best we're capable of playing this Sunday," Ryan said. "That's really all our focus needs to be about. If we're worried about anything else then you're not as locked in as you need to be."

Jameis Winston threw for 299 yards and three TDs for the Bucs (4-10), including a 16-yarder to Adam Humphries that trimmed Atlanta's lead to three points with 3:51 remaining.

Winston, who also threw TD passes of 30 yards to O.J. Howard and 42 yards to Mike Evans, got the ball back with a minute left and nearly sent the game into overtime.

The third-year pro, a college teammate of Freeman's at Florida State, completed three straight passes to move the ball from his 29 to the Atlanta 36. Patrick Murray came on to try a 54-yard field goal to tie it, but the kick sailed wide right as time expired.

Winston finished 27 of 35 passing with no interceptions. He was sacked twice.

"Jameis played a heck of a game. He probably played his best game this season," coach Dirk Koetter said. "Took care of the football, was accurate, threw the deep ball with accuracy, checked it down, did a good job leading our football team."

The Bucs have lost nine of 11 following a 2-1 start, taking a step back after finishing 9-7 a year ago in their first season under Koetter.

Meanwhile, former Bucs coach Jon Gruden, who's spent the past nine seasons as ESPN's game analyst on Monday Night Football, was inducted into the Ring of Honor at Raymond James Stadium during a halftime ceremony.

Gruden was acquired from the Oakland Raiders in exchange for two first-round draft picks, two second-round draft pick and $8 million before leading the 2002 Bucs to the club's only Super Bowl championship in his first season in Tampa Bay.

Gruden was fired after the 2008 season and moved into the broadcast booth the following season. The Bucs haven't made the playoffs since 2007 and don't have a postseason win since their Super Bowl run 15 years ago.

The coach's sons—Deuce, Mike and Jayson—led the Bucs out of the tunnel before the game as the team's honorary flag runners.

Gruden is the 11th member of the Ring of Honor, joining Hall of Famers Lee Roy Selmon, Warren Sapp and Derrick Brooks, as well as Doug Williams, John Lynch, John McKay, Mike Alstott, Jimmie Giles, Paul Gruber and Malcom Glazer.

Free agent Darvish meets with Cubs

DALLAS (AP)—The Chicago Cubs are making a pitch for Yu Darvish.

The free agent right-hander says he had a "very good meeting" on Monday with Cubs officials. Darvish tweeted a statement in Japanese confirming the get-together amid reports that Chicago executives Theo Epstein and Jed Hoyer were in Dallas to speak with him.

Darvish is one of the top starting pitchers available this offseason, and the Cubs have been busy filling holes on their staff. The NL Central champions already have signed free agent starter Tyler Chatwood and relievers Brandon Morrow and Steve Cishek.

Darvish was 10-12 with a 3.86 ERA last season for the Texas Rangers and Los Angeles Dodgers. The four-time All-Star pitched well in a pair of playoff starts but was hit hard by Houston in the World Series, losing both his outings as the Dodgers were beaten in seven games.

Darvish also used the meeting to sharpen his English. The 31-year-old says he did not bring a translator because "I wanted to put myself in a more challenging stage regarding my English."

The 3 1/2-hour sit-down left Darvish "very tired," but he says he "will work hard again tomorrow speaking English."

In Miami, J.T. Realmuto wants to join the Marlins' exodus.

The catcher requested a trade in the wake of the team's payroll purge, a person familiar with the situation said Monday. The person confirmed Realmuto's request to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because discussions with the Marlins were private.

The person said Realmuto's agent told the Marlins trading the three-year veteran would make sense for the rebuilding team because of his high market value.

The Marlins responded that they'll be the judge of that.

"We used the last couple of weeks continuing to lay the foundation for building a first-class, winning organization," president of baseball operations Michael Hill said in a statement released after Realmuto's request became public. "Should we feel like we need to make a trade involving any of our under-contract, controllable players, we will be the ones who initiate that conversation and always do what's best for the organization."

Miami dealt major league home run champion Giancarlo Stanton, All-Star left fielder Marcell Ozuna and major league stolen base champ Dee Gordon this month. The franchise is reducing payroll and rebooting under a new ownership group that includes Derek Jeter.

Jeter will discuss the franchise's direction Tuesday at a town hall meeting with season-ticket holders.

Realmuto hit .278 with 17 homers this year and is regarded as one of the best young catchers in the majors. He's eligible for arbitration for the first time after making $562,500 this year, but won't be eligible for free agency until after the 2020 season, which makes the Marlins reluctant to part with him.

Realmuto could bring a windfall in prospects, and the Marlins are anxious to build up a farm system that has been ranked among the worst in the majors.

At last week's winter meetings, manager Don Mattingly spoke of Realmuto as a player to rebuild around.

"I love J.T.," Mattingly said. "It's probably not fair, but I laid a little bit of a Yadier Molina tag on him. When you're facing the Cardinals and Yadier Molina is behind the plate, you're not happy about it. We feel J.T. can be that guy. He's not there yet, but we think this guy will step up leadership-wise and be a guy you can win a championship with."

While Realmuto may stay in Miami, more cost-cutting trades are expected this offseason, with center fielder Christian Yelich among the candidates to be dealt.

In Boston, first baseman Mitch Moreland has agreed to a $13 million, two-year contract to return to the Red Sox and play for former teammate Alex Cora.

"He's a great baseball guy," said Moreland, who was on the Texas Rangers when Cora made a brief appearance there in 2010. "He was a great teammate then, and I don't expect anything different from him as a manager."

Moreland, 32, spent the first seven seasons of his career with the Rangers. The 32-year-old left-handed batter hit .246 with 22 homers 79 RBI in his first season with the team last year. His home run total was just behind Mookie Betts (24) and Hanley Ramirez (23) on the Red Sox, who hit an AL-low 168 for the season.

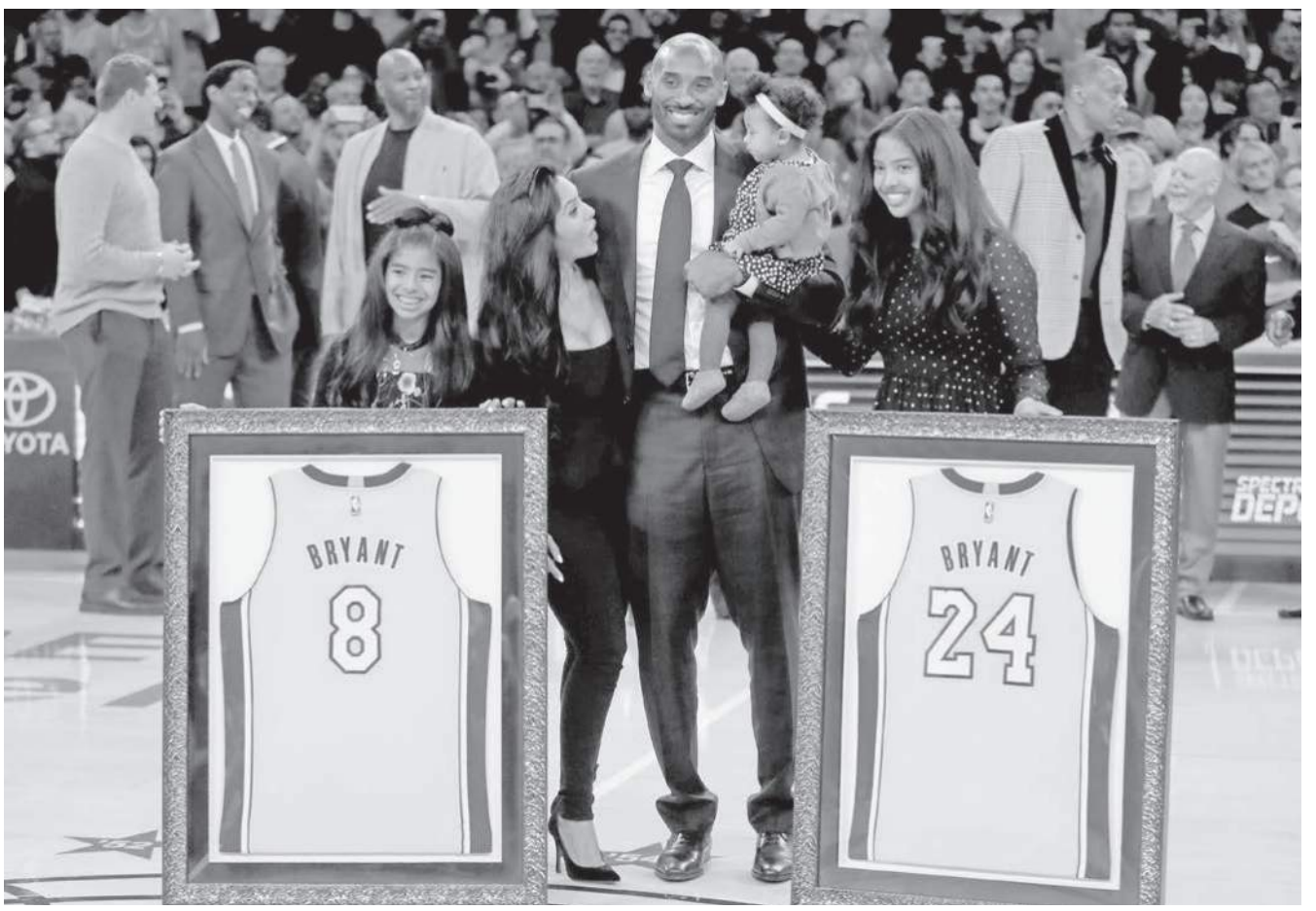
"I love playing here, love the guys, everything about it," Moreland said in a conference call with reporters. "Looking forward to being back and maybe taking care of some unfinished business."

Moreland broke his toe last year, but never went on the disabled list, playing in a career-high 149 games.

"I don't like to point fingers at things. I know it didn't feel good," he said. "That's who I am, I'm trying to go out there and play. ... I'm not planning to break my toe this year, so hopefully we can stay out of that."

Moreland gets $6.5 million in each of the next two seasons as part of the deal announced Monday. He can earn $500,000 annually in performance bonuses: $250,000 each for 500 and 550 plate appearances.

Lakers retire Kobe's No. 8 and 24 jerseys



AP
Former Los Angeles Laker Kobe Bryant poses with his family during an NBA basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Golden State Warriors in Los Angeles, Monday, Dec. 18, 2017. The Lakers retired Bryant's No. 8 and No. 24 jersey during a halftime ceremony.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Although Kobe Bryant has been asked many times, he still isn't sure who would win a mystical game of one-on-one between the young Kobe in his No. 8 Lakers jersey and his older self, who wore No. 24.

"I kind of go back and forth," Bryant said with a sly grin. "But 8 has something that 24 will never, ever, ever have, and that's the ability to grow hair."

The Lakers couldn't choose, either. So they honored both eras of Kobe's incredible career.

In an NBA first, the Lakers on Monday night retired both jersey numbers worn by Bryant, the leading scorer in franchise history.

Bryant attended the Lakers' game against the Golden State Warriors for a halftime ceremony at Staples Center, which was packed with fans eager to bear witness once again to the beloved superstar scorer. Dozens of Bryant's former teammates showed up, including Shaquille O'Neal and Derek Fisher, along with the Lakers' usual cavalcade of celebrity fans.

"I feel great," Bryant said after entering Staples Center while pushing a stroller containing Bianka Bella Bryant, his infant daughter. "I'm very proud I get to come here with my family. It feels good as a father to have my family come in and share this."

Bryant is the 10th player with a retired jersey for the 16-time NBA champion Lakers. His numbers were revealed high on the Staples Center wall, flanking the banner honoring Lakers broadcaster Chick Hearn.

"It's not about the jerseys that are hanging up there for me," Bryant told the cheering crowd. "It's about the jerseys that were hanging up there before. They inspired me to play the game at a high level."

Magic Johnson and Lakers owner Jeanie Buss gave brief tributes to Bryant at halftime, with Magic boldly declaring, "We're here to celebrate the greatest who ever wore the purple and gold."

Buss cleverly explained the reasoning behind the Lakers' decision to hang two jersey numbers for Bryant: "If you separated each of the accomplishments under those numbers, each of those players would qualify for the Hall of Fame."

"I thank you for staying loyal to the purple and gold and remaining a Laker for life when it might have been easier for you to leave," Buss added.

Along with Bryant's 33,643 points, the five-time NBA champion and 18-time All-Star selection also leads the Lakers in games played (1,346), 3-pointers (1,827), steals (1,944) and free throws (8,378). Bryant is the third-leading scorer in league history.

He also was the first player to spend at least 20 seasons with one franchise, and he is widely beloved in Southern California, where he still lives with his family.

"He's everything in this city," said Lakers coach Luke Walton, Bryant's teammate on the last two title teams.

"To play his entire career for one organization, in modern sports, it really doesn't happen very often anymore," Walton added. "To go through two different championship runs, I think the Lakers are such a huge part of this city that people feel connected to him. ... They feel as if they were on that journey with him, with us, and I think that's why there's such a connection."

The Lakers celebrated by closing down the street outside Staples Center and staging a street fair dubbed "Kobeland," complete with a Ferris wheel and many other games and attractions. Thousands of fans crowded into the downtown streets several hours before the game just to appreciate the atmosphere.

The Lakers typically only retire the numbers of players enshrined in the Hall of Fame. Bryant isn't eligible until 2021, but the Lakers decided not to wait for that formality—and for Kobe, they doubled up the honor.

Bryant switched jersey numbers halfway through his career, neatly dividing the eras of his 20 years with the Lakers. The No. 8 Bryant won three NBA titles, and the No. 24 Bryant won two more before retiring in 2016 with a stunning 60-point performance in his farewell game against Utah.

Bryant even scored almost the same number of points in No. 8 (16,777) as he did in No. 24 (16,866).

When pressed to pick his favorite era of his own career, Bryant reluctantly did it.

"If 8 is playing 24 after he just ruptured his Achilles, then it's a problem for 24," Bryant said. "If 24 is playing 8 when he tore his shoulder, it's a problem for No. 8. so it depends. ... It's really, really tough for me. I think 24 was more challenging, and I tend to gravitate to things that are harder to do, and physically for me, it was really hard to get up night in and night out. It was really a grind."

KD lifts Warriors past Lakers in OT

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 36 points and hit a tiebreaking 22-foot jumper with 7.3 seconds left in overtime, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Los Angeles Lakers 116-114 Monday night for their ninth consecutive victory.

Klay Thompson had 17 points and 10 rebounds as the defending NBA champions predictably dampened a celebratory night for the Lakers, who retired Kobe Bryant's two jersey numbers during a halftime ceremony.

Perhaps in tribute to Bryant, Durant and Thompson never stopped shooting even when they weren't making many. The duo combined to miss 31 of its first 40 shots, but Durant went 4 for 4 in overtime, capped by that pure go-ahead jumper in OT.

The Lakers had a chance at the end, but David West blocked Lonzo Ball's shot and Brandon Ingram couldn't beat the buzzer.

Kyle Kuzma scored 25 points in a reserve role and Ingram added 19 for the Lakers, who have lost three straight and eight of 10. Ball had 16 points, six assists and six rebounds.

Rockets 120, Jazz 99

In Houston, Eric Gordon scored 17 of his season-high 33 points in the fourth quarter to power a huge run that put Houston on top, and the Rockets cruised past Utah for their 14th straight win.

Houston used a 15-0 run early in the fourth to take the lead and was up by four midway through the quarter after a layup by Joe Ingles. The Rockets then scored 11 points in a row, capped by two 3-pointers from Gordon to make it 111-96 with about three minutes to go.

Celtics 112, Pacers 111

In Indianapolis, Terry Rozier's steal and dunk with 1.5 seconds left capped a frantic comeback in the final half-minute that gave Boston the victory.

Kyrie Irving scored 30 points for Boston, which trailed 107-102 after Victor Oladipo's basket with 31 seconds remaining.

But Irving made a pair of 3-pointers, and following an inbound pass with nine seconds left, Boston was attempting to trap Indiana's Bojan Bogdanovic along the sideline. Bogdanovic threw a high pass intended for Oladipo near midcourt but Rozier intercepted it and had an open court slam.

Thunder 95, Nuggets 94

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 16 of his season-high 38 points in the fourth quarter, including the tiebreaking free throw with 2.3 seconds left, to lift Oklahoma City over Denver.

Westbrook made the first of two free throws to put the Thunder ahead. He missed the second, and the Nuggets called timeout with 1.7 seconds left. Denver's Gary Harris missed short on an off-balance 3-pointer as time expired.

Timberwolves 108, Trail Blazers 107

In Minneapolis, Jimmy Butler powered through a recent bout of back spasms to score 37 points, sinking two free throws that gave Minnesota the lead with 2.5 seconds left in a victory over Portland.

Jamal Crawford pitched in a season-high 23 points, including 16 in the fourth quarter to spur a rally from 10 points down with 7+ minutes remaining.

Hornets 109, Knicks 91

In Charlotte, Frank Kaminsky scored 15 of his season high-tying 24 points in the first half to give Charlotte a jolt off the bench in a victory over New York.

Kaminsky didn't miss a shot until the fourth quarter, finishing 10 of 13 overall and 4 of 6 on 3-pointers to provide a boost for a Hornets bench that has struggled so much lately that interim head coach Stephen Silas has shortened the playing rotation.

Bulls 117, 76ers 115

In Chicago, Nikola Mirotic and Kris Dunn each scored 22 points, and Chicago topped Philadelphia for its sixth consecutive victory.

Mirotic and Dunn each hit huge shots down the stretch as Chicago rallied past the 76ers with a big finish in the fourth quarter. Mirotic also grabbed 13 rebounds, helping the Bulls remain unbeaten since he returned Dec. 8 after missing the start of the season with facial fractures.

Spurs 109, Clippers 91

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 19 points and San Antonio beat undermanned Los Angeles in Kawhi Leonard's home debut this season.

Tony Parker had 16 points and seven assists in 23 minutes, his second-longest stint after missing the first 19 games while recovering from left quadriceps tendon surgery.

Suns 97, Mavericks 91

In Dallas, Alex Len had 14 points and 14 rebounds to help Phoenix rally past Dallas for its second consecutive comeback victory.

TJ Warren scored 19 points and Isaiah Canaan added 17 as the Suns (11-21) improved to 2-0 on a three-game road trip despite playing without injured guard Devin Booker.

Hawks 110, Heat 104

In Atlanta, Taurean Prince scored 24 points, Dennis Schroder added 23 and the NBA-worst Atlanta Hawks beat injury-riddled Miami.

The Heat, down to just nine healthy players, were without leading scorer Goran Dragic, forward James Johnson and key reserve Justise Winslow.

22 players join NMIFA goalkeeping clinic

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association held another goalkeeping clinic last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field, drawing 22 participants in the morning session.

Last weekend's clinic was third of a series of NMIFA's goalkeeping seminars and it was for players in the 12 and above age group. Fourteen boys and eight girls attended the event and learned techniques in goalkeeping.

"I wanted to have this goalkeeping clinic because being a goalkeeper is a very important position. I saw many international matches where goalkeepers changed the games results by saving goals," NMIFA technical director and CNMI Men's National Team head coach Michiteru Mita said.

Saipan Soccer School staff Angie Ito and Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong's Jimmy Tang assisted Mita in conducting the first three goalkeeping clinics. Also lending a hand during last Saturday's session were CNMI national team goalies Christopher Aninzo and Carla Ballesteros,

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coaches and participants in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's goalkeeping clinic pose for a photo at the Koblerville Elementary School Field last Saturday.

NMIFA assistant coach Jersh Angeles, and Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong's Jacky Lee.

"The goalkeeping clinic is an experience that many should take advantage of. We often take for granted the position of a goalkeeper. Not many kids aspire to become a goalkeeper nor does it attract the attention of those who have little to no knowledge about soccer. Most of my friends and family wonder why I play this certain position. I respond and say 'It's the toughest job and only a few can handle the pressure. I can either help save the game or lose it. I chose to save it,'" Aninzo said.

"I just arrived from the NMI U18 Hong Kong trip and played against the top U18 youth clubs there. We came back with great result having two wins and two clean sheets on my end and it was definitely a game changer. I hope to continue seeing more and more kids come out to participate and learn the basics of goalkeeping through this program," he added.

Meanwhile, Lee is excited to see new players showing interest in goalkeeping.

"I am very happy to see many new faces in the clinic. I am also very happy to see a better number of girls on the field trying to do goalkeeping. I will share this good news to coach Koo," said Lee, who was referring to Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong technical director and CNMI Women's National Team coach Luam Khen Koo.

Kanoa Football Club's Jonathan Mindanao and Paire FC's Cathlyn Reyes were among the participants in last Saturday's event and loved every bit of the session.

"The goalkeeping clinic was really fun. I love being a goalkeeper because it is an important position in a soccer team since we are the ones communicating with the players and we see everything. Without the goalkeeper, no one will be saving shots for the team and then the whole squad will lose and that's a bad feeling," the Kanoa goalie said.

"At first I was sort of shy because I don't know most of the other goalkeepers, but later it started to be more fun and much easier. I want to be a goalkeeper because it is the position I mostly play and I am good at it. Also, goalkeeping involves a lot of thinking and strategies and I love both," Reyes said.

For his part, Angeles said that Reyes, Mindanao, and others who will make up the CNMI's pool of goalkeepers will be great assets to the islands' grassroots program if trained regularly and properly.

"A good goalkeeper can change the game. Goalkeepers nowadays play high outside the box and become the last defender," Angeles said.

NMIFA's goalkeeping program is highly recommended by its president Jerry Tan, as he encouraged various clubs to send their representatives to the series of clinics and capitalize on this great opportunity.

The next goal keeping session will be held this Saturday at the Koblerville pitch from 8am to 9:30am. New players are welcome to join the clinic. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI Boys U18 National Team goalie Chris Aninzo demonstrates goalkeeping drills to players during the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's clinic at the Koblerville Elementary School Field last Saturday.

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half. Elayda dribbled in front of two Mt. Carmel players and after drawing the Lady Knights' defense, she passed the leather to Saralu and moved to the left. With Mt. Carmel's defense now collapsing on Saralu, Elayda was left open after getting back the possession off a feed from her teammate.

Elayda and company went on to keep the shaky lead, as Mt. Carmel tried, but failed to complete its offensive plays.

After the tight semis win over the Lady Knights, Mendiola challenged his wards to play better in tomorrow's finals against WSR, which forced a draw against Koblerville in their lone meeting in the elimination round.

"We will have practice tomorrow and work on our coverage and positioning in a bigger field. I have faith in our players and encourage them to give their all in the finals," said Mendiola, adding that having players who are seeing action with Southern United in the NMIFA youth league help Koblerville play good games this season.

The Lady Knights had only two players from their roster competing in a regular season, while majority of their members played organized soccer for the first time.

"I am proud of what our team was able to accomplish in such a short season, considering most of our players are new to the sport. There was a significant improvement from our first game to the last three matches. They played good defense in the first half against Koblerville and still held their own until that goal late in the second," Mt. Carmel coach Catherine Attao-Toves said.

"The season maybe over, but the learning process for our players will continue. I encourage them to keep playing and join football clubs so they can play in a regular league to improve their skills," she added.

Meanwhile, Mt. Carmel also played in the boys semis game yesterday against Garapan Elementary School, while GTC dueled WSR in the other Final Four match. Results of both games were unavailable at press time and will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Thursday edition.

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ing champion in the regular season, as he collected 161 points in eight games for a 20.1 average. He was the only player in the league to average at least 20 points per match and helped the Eagles finish second to Mt. Carmel School in the team standings after the two-round robin preliminary.

Lee registered the second most points in the division with his 137 and averaged 17.1 per game. The three other players who made it to the first team also averaged in twin digits in scoring in the regular season. Yun was ranked third with his 112 points and 14 per game average, while Park and Hudkins recorded averages of 13.9 (111 points in eight games) and 12.9 (104), respectively.

Mt. Carmel School's Angelo Factor missed the Boys 1st Team All-Stars, but was on top of the second squad selection. He played only seven games, but still averaged in double figures with his 12.9 points (90 total).

Rounding out the Boys 2nd Team All-Stars were Agape Christian Academy's Dawei Cai and Haolong Cheng, GCA's Jether Espanola, and MCS' Matthew Richardson. Cai, Cheng, and Richardson averaged in twin digits in scoring after posting 12.4 (99 points in eight games), 11.9 (95), and 11.3 (79 in seven matches), respectively. Espanola also gained 79 points in eight games for a 9.9 average.

In the girls division, the 1st Team All-Stars were dominated by Mt. Carmel School. MCS 1's Anne Lei Santos and Quina Flores made the list along with MCS 2's Riley Buenaventura and Francesca Bucalig and MBA's Tina Choi.

Santos was the leading scorer in the division with her 13.8 points per game average or 83 total in six matches. She was the only female player to hit double figures in scoring average, as the second ranked Buenaventura logged it 8.3 points (50 total). Flores, Choi, and Bucalig had averages of 6.2, 6, and 5.6, respectively.

For the Girls Boys 2nd Team All-Stars, MCS 2's Princess Alcantara headed the selection and was in the company of teammate Gia Hemley, MCS 1's Tawnie Manibusan and Jennifer Villagomez, and Agape's Victoria Ancheta.

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seconds in the 50m butterfly. She was in the same heat with other PBT getters Ashley (31.68) and Jeon (55.76). Six more Tsunami Saipan swimmers listed PBTs in the one-lap race: Raven (56.87 seconds), Isaiah Aleksenko (33.15), Kim (41.12), Miguel (46.47), Nunez (1:06.72), and Illahi (49.57).

There were nine swimmers, too, who notched PBTs in the 50m backstroke. Kim led the group with his 48.28 seconds and were joined on the list by Miguel (48.35), Nunez (1:01.14), Guerrero (43.14), Shuman (58.28), Jinang (50.95), Chen (58.90), and Jeon (1:00.04).

In the 400m freestyle, Maria (6:13.25), Shoko (6:14.43), Obligacion (6:56.18), Aasish (5:38.21), and Kouki (6:03,58) achieved PBTs, while Juhn Tenorio (1:03.30) and Zhang (1:12.48) had the same feat in the 100m freestyle.

Maria and Zhang also earned PBTs in the 100m breaststroke after completing the two-lap race in 1:43.18 and 1:33.99, respectively. Shoko (1:43.67) and Nanaka (1:25.78) were the other PBT getters in the 100m breaststroke event.

In the 800m freestyle, there were four swimmers, too, who marked PBTs. Nelson topped the list with his 10:25.16 and was followed by Asaka (12:02.26), Aasish (11:52.12), and Hans Xu (11:05.54).

CNMI U18 National Team Training Camp

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CNMI U18 National Team captain Ryan Relucio, left, shakes hands with his counterpart in the All Black before the start of their match in Hong Kong. The game was part of the Teen Ayuyus' five-day training camp held last week.

The CNMI's starting 11 pose for a photo before their match versus the All Black.

Joshua Abragan gestures after scoring the winning goal in the CNMI's victory over Kitchee Sports Club.

The Teen Ayuyus gather for a group photo after their 1-0 win against Kitchee Sports Club.

The Teen Ayuyus' starting 11 against the Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong U18 pose for a photo before playing in their second training match.

CNMI coach Michiteru Mita gives pointers to Dai Podziewski.

Players of the CNMI U18 National Team and Chelsea FC U18 pose for a photo after their game.

The CNMI's Sebastien Manabat, left, joins Sunjoon Tenorio for a photo after they scored the goals in the Teen Ayuyus' 2-0 win over Chelsea FC U18.

Freeman runs for 126 yards, Falcons beat Bucs

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Lakers retire Kobe's No. 8 and 24 jerseys

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Koblerville nips Mt. Carmel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School eked out a 1-0 victory over Mt. Carmel School to march into the finals of the girls division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League.

Megan Mae Elayda drilled the lone goal in the semis match yesterday at the Hopwood Middle School Field, making a left cross in the 30th minute to hand the Umangs the second finals berth. William S. Reyes Elementary School took the first finals seat after winning via forfeiture against Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

"Our girls struggled a bit due to the bigger field. They are used to the smaller field when they played in the elimination round that's why when it was time to play here at Hopwood, they had difficulty with the coverage. The usual shots and passes they made fell short," KES coach Francis Mendiola said after the close semis game.

"So after the scoreless first half, I told the girls to be more aggressive and keep kicking the ball until they get closer for a shot," said Mendiola, who spent majority of the second half shouting instructions from the sidelines.

The Umangs heeded their coach's plea, as Elayda and Rosie Jean Saralu led Koblerville's attack in the second

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Koblerville Elementary School, left, and Mt. Carmel School players fight for the ball during the second half of their semis game in the girls division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League yesterday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School's Seok Jun Yun, left, goes up for a shot against Grace Christian Academy's Amir Abes during the fourth quarter of their title game in the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

20 make All-Star teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty individuals were selected to the All-Star squads of the high school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Basketball League.

Grace Christian Academy's Matthew Mamaril led the Boys 1st Team All-Stars and was joined on the elite group by Marianas Baptist Academy's Dave Lee and Minsu Park, Mt. Carmel School's Seok Jun Yun, and Saipan International School's A.J Hudkins.

Mamaril was the scor-

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Tsunami Saipan swimmers mark 66 PBTs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan put on a show in the Tsunami Saipan Open after registering 66 personal best times during the Dec. 9 meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The host club got the most PBTs (23) in the 50m freestyle event with Nelson Batallones leading the finishers after clocking in at 28.94 seconds, which was better than his old mark of 29.77 seconds. Batallones raced in the 13 to 14 age group, along with fellow PBT getters and Tsunami Saipan teammates Joseph Zhang (30.93 seconds) and Dan Illahi (37.08).

Other Tsunami Saipan swimmers who earned PBTs were Kevin Guerrero (34.84 seconds), Alex Kim (35.69), Kean Pajarillaga (35.70), Miguel Bartolata (37.48), Andrew Nunez (50.12), Sari Barman (1:07.99), Shoko Litulumar (35.49), Maria Batallones (36.91), Sakura Hara (46.69), Arwen Bartolata (48.74), Asaka Litulumar (33.14), Ayumi Obligacion (39.56), Julia Jinang (43.44), Ashley Jeon (46.64), Michelle Chen (49.81), Raven (45.69) and Rafael (49.83) Pascual, Aasish Dangol (33.20), Kouki Watanabe (37.59), and Shuman Barman (47.21)

In another sprint event—the 50m breaststroke—10 Tsunami Saipan swimmers got PBTs. The list includes Arwen (1:03.48), Sakura (1:06.27), Jeon (52.60 seconds), Chen (57.43), Kim (47.39), Pajarillaga (54.01), Nunez (1:02.13), Miguel (1:03.45), Guerrero (46.86), and Jinang (1:03.08).

Jinang recorded her third PBT after timing in at 51.88

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan member races in the 100m breaststroke event during an earlier meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.